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ARAB TIMES

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Non-Kuwaiti officials will not be dismissed

KUWAIT'S cabinet has suspended a decision to dismiss non-Kuwaiti public servants. The cabinet has decided to replace 100-Kuwaitis, who resign, retire or die, by Kuwaitis.

According to a Kuwaiti daily, the government's decision to dismiss 15 per cent of the non-Kuwaiti public servants has been suspended for humanitarian reasons.

Arab employees who display above average work performance will remain on their jobs as long as they maintain a high work standard and they will receive promotions commensurate with their performance.

Contacted

The Civil Service Commission has contacted ministries and other government establishments about the number of employees who have resigned or who will reach retirement age this year. These employees will be replaced with Kuwaitis.

The council is making a study on work opportunities for Kuwaitis, who hold intermediate school certificates. The ministries plan to appoint a limited number of them as public servants, while others will be sent to the Public Authority for Training and Applied Education, to train them for jobs needed by the government.

Three ministries have discontinued the appointment of citizens with intermediate certificates, sources said.

Coup bid foiled

PANAMA CITY, March 16, (Reuters): Panama's strongman was reported to have crushed a military coup today but new anti-government protests erupted, paralysing the business district and blocking the entrance to a US Air Force base.

INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Features	7,8,9
Travel	10
Business	11,14
Stocks	12,13
Pictures	15
Classifieds	16
Urdu	17,18,19,20
Sports	21,22

آج کے اردو صفحات میں

اسلامی کونسل کی طرف سے اور ایران کی طرف سے
کی جنگ بندی کرنے کی بات
پاکستان کی حکومت نے امریکی سفیر کو
فیصلہ کر لیا ہے کہ امریکی سفیر کو
مقبوضہ علاقوں میں امریکی
فوجوں کے ہتھیاروں کو واپس لے لیا
وہیں امریکی سفیر کو دوسرا ایکشن
پہنچا ہے پاکستان سے یہ خبر تیار
وہاں امریکی سفیر کو مطلع کیا گیا

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with moderate northwesterly wind may freshen at times.
State of sea: moderate to rough
High water: 10.30 am, 11.30 pm
Low water: 6.00 am, 6.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.56 am
Sunset: 5.58 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 25°C/77°F
Ahmad: 23°C/73°F
Fahaka: 23°C/73°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 24°C/75°F
Ahmad: 22°C/72°F
Fahaka: 22°C/72°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 11°C/52°F
Ahmad: 10°C/50°F
Fahaka: 10°C/50°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 40 per cent
Ahmad: 41 per cent
Fahaka: 65 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 55 per cent
Ahmad: 60 per cent
Fahaka: 69 per cent

Iraq bombs seven Iranian cities

Fierce missile duel continues

NICOSIA, March 16, (Agencies): Iran and Iraq today blasted each other's capitals with missiles, hammered other cities with air raids and fought ground battles along the front.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said Revolutionary Guards fired five missiles into the Iraqi capital after 70 Iranian civilians were killed in seven Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran and air raids on seven Iranian cities.

The state-run Iraqi News Agency confirmed only three hits on Baghdad and said "many civilians were killed or wounded." The agency did not give a casualty count, but reported seven missiles fired at Tehran, the last two at 2 pm (1100 GMT).

Confirmed

Iran confirmed that missiles hit the capital and said Iraqi warplanes bombed Bakhtar, Shiraz and other cities in western Iran. The Iranian agency said 25 civilians were killed and more than 100 wounded in Shiraz alone.

Iraq says it has fired 22 missiles into the Iranian capital since a two-day truce in the so-called "war of the cities" broke down late Sunday. Iran has reported launching seven into Baghdad.

Neither side has given an overall casualty count. Iran said it launched a new ground operation in the northern Iraqi province of Sulaymaniyah



Iraqi children, injured in Iranian shelling, being treated in a hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)

— the third in the region staged by Iran in four days.

An Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi planes caused extensive damage to Tabriz and Rizeh in northern Iran and Kermanshah in the west.

Raid

He said other aircraft destroyed an anti-aircraft missile system in Tabriz.

Iraqi warplanes attacked Iran's vital Qotur bridge in northwestern Iran near the Turkish border. The bridge is a key link between Iran and Turkey.

The Iranian news agency reported that an Iraqi warplane was shot down by anti-aircraft guns during a bombing raid on western Iran. Iraq denied the report, saying all its planes had returned safely.

Iran's news agency said jet fighters bombed the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk and other cities, "inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy." It said the jet fighters also shot 16 air-to-ground missiles into Kirkuk, an important Iraqi oil centre.

The Iraqi agency reported that warplanes raided a "large maritime target," a reference to

an oil tanker, at 9 pm (1800 GMT) that night.

Gulf-based maroc executives had reported a raid on the Liberian-flagged Trade Fortitude at around the same time.

Residents are leaving Tehran for other parts of the country because of the Iraqi missile attacks.

In Mashhad, located in the northeast of the country, hotel charges have increased ten times in the past two weeks. One room in the villages near Tehran costs 3,000 rials for one night, almost half of the monthly income of a worker.

Four killed in West Bank

Israel cuts phone links to gag Palestinians

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 16, (Agencies): Israel has indefinitely cut all outgoing international telephone calls from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and has banned travel between the two territories in an effort to restore order, Israeli officials said today.

"It is all part of the means that the administration and the Army are taking to get things back to normal," said a spokesman for the military's civil administration, which supervises the occupied territories.

Israeli troops killed four Palestinians in violent demonstrations in the West Bank today. Arab sources said.

Confirmed

An Army spokesman confirmed two of the Palestinians died but said it was not clear whether they were killed by troops. The spokesman said the reports of the other two deaths were being checked.

The killings raised to at least 97 the Palestinian death toll in 14 weeks of an uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Under the new restrictions that went into effect yesterday, residents of Gaza and the West Bank will only be allowed to call numbers in Israel and the occupied territories, the spokesman said.

The move apparently is intended to reduce contact between members of the PLO and local protest leaders, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Relayed

Information about demonstrations has been relayed to Europe by telephone and then to Syria where a clandestine PLO radio station broadcasts the news into the territories while the protests are still under way.

The spokesman said he was not sure if Israel had the technical ability to block incoming calls. He said the outgoing calls would be cut indefinitely.

The Army and civil administration yesterday imposed a travel ban between the two territories that forbids Gaza

residents from going to the West Bank and West Bank residents from entering Gaza, the spokesman said.

A Gaza civil administration spokesman said the restrictions were part of an effort to keep "extremist elements" from the territories.

Prevented

Palestinians can still travel to Israel during the day, but are prevented from staying overnight under restrictions imposed after the 1967 six day war during which Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinians from the territories must carry identification papers at all times, and their car licence plates indicate their hometown.

Anti-Israel protests erupted today in several towns and UN-run refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and most businesses in the territories were closed by a general strike.

The Army said one Palestinian died and six were wounded today in protests to the area of Tulkarm, 40 miles (65 kilometres) northwest of Jerusalem. The Army said the circumstances of the death were still under investigation and no other details were available.

The Palestine Press Service identified the victim as 60-year-old Salim Al Yehyeh and said he died after soldiers threw tear gas into his home in a refugee camp at the outskirts of Tulkarm.

Hospital officials also said Israeli soldiers shot and wounded eight Palestinians today; six of them in the Gaza Strip and two others in the West Bank.

One of the six in Gaza was in serious condition, the officials said.

In other developments, a PLO-ordered general strike entered its second day today, keeping most Arab workers from their jobs in Israel.

● An Arab-American who advocates non-violent resistance to Israel's occupation was detained today for allegedly taking part in an illegal gathering, police said.

Halt war of cities, UN asks Gulf foes

UNITED NATIONS, March 16, (Reuters): The Security Council demanded today that Iran and Iraq immediately halt their "war of the cities" and backed a move by the secretary-general to hold new peace talks with the two countries.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is to report back to the council within three weeks of the results of his talks with the foreign ministers or other emissaries of the two sides.

The council is expected to issue a statement later this week supporting the secretary-general's new initiative, for which no dates have yet been set.

Perez de Cuellar held inconclusive talks here last December with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Jawad Larjani and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Adopted

The talks were aimed at securing implementation of a Security Council resolution adopted last July demanding a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict, now in its eighth year, and a troop withdrawal to internationally recognised boundaries.

Iraq has said it would obey the resolution number 598 on a reciprocal basis.

Iran's acting UN representative, Mohammad Mahallati, told reporters yesterday: "We have no objection to having another round of serious discussions with the secretary-general. However, we believe Iraq is trying to destroy the necessary situation and atmosphere for such talks."

Spare the lives

JOHANNESBURG, March 16, (UPI): Church leaders and anti-apartheid activists today denounced the scheduled executions of five black men and a black woman and called for their lives to be spared.

Lawyers, meanwhile, were preparing an urgent appeal for a stay of execution pending presidential clemency.

GCC to intensify efforts to end war

RIYADH, March 16, (Reuters): Gulf Arab foreign ministers pledged today to intensify their efforts to end the 7-1/2-year-old Iran-Iraq war which they said had entered a dangerous new phase. They also criticised the US decision to close the PLO mission at the United Nations.

The pledge came in a statement at the end of a two-day meeting of the GCC, held as the fiercest "war of the cities" between Tehran and Baghdad continued well into its third week.

"The council discussed developments in the Iran-Iraq war and the dangerous escalation that developed in the outbreak of the war of the cities between the two sides," the statement said.

The GCC would "continue intensifying contacts on the international level and especially with the permanent members of the Security Council to ensure the implementation of the resolution," the statement said.

The UN Security Council approved resolution 598 in July calling for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of troops to internationally recognised boundaries.

Iraq said it would observe a ceasefire if Iran did, but Iran said

UN assembly to meet on PLO tomorrow

UNITED NATIONS, March 16, (AP): The UN General Assembly is expected to ask the World Court to rule on whether the United States can close the PLO observer mission, an Arab League spokesman said yesterday.

Spokesman Clovis Maksoud said UN sources said the 159-member assembly would convene on Friday.

The US Justice Department has said it will move "on or about" Monday, March 21, to enforce a new anti-terrorism law calling for the closure of the PLO observer mission to the UN.

Maksoud said the League will ask the assembly to make a cautious response to the US decision.

"He said the League will not ask the Assembly to move to another country or suspend Israel from debates on the Middle East, as the PLO has suggested."

"The provocation was reckless. We don't want to respond with recklessness," Maksoud said in an interview.

Scores of nations said during a special session on the PLO crisis earlier this month that the independence of the United Nations is at stake.

Arabs united against Shultz plan: Shara

PARIS, March 16, (Reuters): Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said today the Arab world was united in opposition to the latest United States peace plan for the Middle East as it stood.

He told reporters the US plan, already opposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shalom, fell short of Arab demands.

Shara, visiting Paris with his Jordanian and Iraqi counterparts in an Arab League delegation, said that he was speaking on behalf of all Arab countries.

But he stopped short of rejecting the plan outright, saying he hoped it could be turned into "a genuine, comprehensive and just solution and not mere manoeuvres and words."

The US plan foresees an international conference next month leading to talks on temporary Palestinian self-rule in the

occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Shara said the plan failed to demand Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied after the 1967 war or to specifically endorse self-determination for the Palestinian people without restrictions.

"The ... plan, as it is, is not acceptable at all to any Arab party concerned ... all occupations must be terminated. There is no other solution as long as Israel retains an inch of Arab occupied territories," he told reporters.

Accept

"The Palestinian people have a national right to self-determination. This implies anything they want and it cannot be restricted."

Shara said he sees no place in a regional peace formula for an international conference, which is one of the main elements

Hussein in Saudi talks

RIYADH, March 16, (AP): King Hussein of Jordan arrived today for talks with King Fahd and a Jordanian royal palace source said the talks would focus on the new American plan for Arab-Israeli peace.

The official Saudi Press Agency reported that Fahd and other Saudi dignitaries gave Hussein a royal welcome, but it did not elaborate on the purpose of the visit.

The source at the palace in Amman, who did not wish to be named, said the King would brief the Saudi leader on the "outcome of his consultations with other Arab leaders on the American peace plan."

King Hussein visited Iraq, Kuwait, Syria and Egypt last week for talks with its leaders on the proposal carried by US Secretary of State George Shultz.

Pakistan 'to sign' Geneva accord

ISLAMABAD, March 16, (Agencies): The Pakistani federal government has decided to sign the Geneva accord on Afghanistan. A Peshawar-based English paper, the Frontier Post, has quoted reliable sources as saying:

The paper said the decision was made at the latest cabinet meeting held on Sunday (March 13) night that was presided over by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Jucio. It added that the government had taken the whole nation into confidence before taking this decision.

The government had consulted the Parliament, political parties and all the four provinces on whether or not to sign the Geneva accord on Afghanistan which has entered a crucial phase since the Soviet announcement of withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, it said.

Refusal

Meanwhile, the Afghan government held fast today in its refusal to yield on key Pakistani and US demands at United Nations talks in Geneva on a Soviet troop withdrawal.

The talks gained a new dimension today with an announcement by Afghan rebels in Pakistan that they had decided to send a delegation to Geneva.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed on the essentials of a Soviet troop withdrawal, but for the past two weeks there has been near deadlock on Pakistan's request for an end to Soviet military aid to Kabul and for progress towards the formation of a new Kabul government.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil told a news conference to Geneva today: "The Pakistanis thus tried to bring about a suspension to the reaction of agreement and signing of the instruments by creating such artificial obstructions."

Wakil repeated previous statements, backed by the Soviet Union, that the issue of a new Kabul government was none of Pakistan's business and that the Soviet Union had the right to provide military aid.

"Those were issues that had never come up over the six years of talks and no reference to them has ever been made in the Geneva accords," he said.

Host

Pakistan, host to some three million Afghan refugees, is the only party officially negotiating with Afghanistan.

It denies trying to dictate to Afghanistan about a new government, but is concerned that the UN agreement will not lead to peace if an administration is not put in place which will satisfy the Afghan mujahideen.

The mujahideen have not been involved in the talks and there has been no stipulation that they stop fighting. The pact provides for the Russians to leave Afghanistan and for outside countries to stop interfering by, for instance, aiding the rebels.

A rebel spokesman, Shah Mahmud Muzaffar, said in Pakistan today that the seven-party guerrilla alliance had decided to send a delegation to Geneva, although a date had not been set.

Shuttle

Muzaffar said the delegation would not take direct part in the talks, but would seek meetings with UN mediator Diego Cordovez and Pakistani delegation chief Zain Noorani.

Sources close to the talks said Cordovez, who has been conducting painstaking shuttle diplomacy for the past 5-1/2 years, was not eager for the rebels to come to Geneva because he feared they might confuse the talks and jeopardise a settlement.

ARAB TIMES
Grand Bingo

BOTH the Second and Third Full House prizes have been won. Mr Alex Pereira will receive KD 60 for the Second Full House and Mr S Marius Fernando, KD 40 for the Third. The answer to the clue is 63.

INTERNATIONAL

Gorbachev proposes steps to cut tensions in Mediterranean

BELGRADE, March 16. (Reuters): Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev today announced proposals to reduce tensions in the Mediterranean, which he described as "one of the most explosive regions in the world."

Addressing the Yugoslav Parliament on the third day of an official visit to Belgrade, Gorbachev also acknowledged that "unfounded accusations" by Josef Stalin against Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito in 1948 had inflicted great damage.

Concerns

Gorbachev, the first Soviet leader to address the Belgrade Assembly, pointed his remarks at Yugoslav concerns, notably accusing NATO of seeking to build up arms on its southern flank to compensate for the treaty to scrap medium-range missiles.

"Today the Mediterranean is one of the most explosive regions of the world, an intricate knot of conflicting interests abounding in huge military arsenals which are continuing to grow," Gorbachev said.

He said he wanted to supplement previous Soviet ideas for reducing military tensions in the area with three proposals:

- the number of Soviet and US ships and the naval potential of the two countries should be frozen from July 1 this year and ceilings set on their levels thereafter

- the Soviet Union and the United States could give each other advance warning on any movements of warships and naval exercises, and could invite observers to the manoeuvres

- Mediterranean and other interested countries could draft measures to ensure the security of "intensive shipping, especially

in international straits," with full Soviet support.

Moscow said last year it would withdraw its naval forces from the Mediterranean if the United States did the same, but the proposal brought no positive response from Washington. Gorbachev said the offer was still valid.

"For us the Mediterranean is no remote, out-of-the-way area," he said.

"It is close to our southern borders and is crossed by the only sea route linking our southern ports with the world's oceans. Naturally we are interested in routes of peace rather than those of war passing here."

Gorbachev began his 45-minute speech by paying tribute to Tito's partisans who liberated Belgrade alongside Soviet troops during World War Two, and said the "militant brotherhood" between the two countries had been sealed in a 1945 treaty.

"Unfortunately soon the good relations between those two countries were obstructed and the treaty broken off," he said.

Review

Turning to arms control, Gorbachev said a NATO summit in Brussels earlier this month to review strategy after the signing of the superpower agreement to scrap intermediate-range nuclear missiles had produced "contradictions, not to say absurdities."

"Some of the North Atlantic leaders obviously tried to link the unlinkable," he said.

"They are trying to link approval of the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles with a demand to compensate by a build-up of other arms, particularly on NATO's southern flank."

MPs campaign to keep TV out of Parliament

LONDON, March 16. (Reuters): Nine members of Parliament renewed efforts to prevent televising proceedings of the House of Commons after unprecedented scenes of uproar during the government's budget.

Parliament voted last month to allow television cameras to show its proceedings, ending 30 years of wrangling over whether its often stormy debates should be broadcast into living rooms across the land.

The vote was successful despite the opposition of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and television is due to start this autumn.

An attempt to have the decision reversed was led by Conservative MP Tony Marlow who said: "Many people now realise that the bad behaviour has got worse, and that the presence of TV cameras in the chamber will stimulate even worse conduct."

Marlow and eight other conservatives signed a motion which

said members should be allowed to reconsider after "exhibitionist behaviour" during yesterday's budget speech.

The disruption, which one newspaper said was like a football riot, occurred while Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson outlined the budget.

Proceedings were suspended twice for several minutes when a Scottish National Party MP was asked for yelling "It's obscene" and Labour Party legislators chanted: "Shame," as Lawson announced tax cuts for the rich.

Their voices were heard across the land on radio, which has been broadcasting debates in the Commons for more than 10 years.

In an article headlined "shame, shame, indeed," opposition Social Democratic Party leader David Owen wrote in the Times newspaper that the disruption would fuel anxieties about the wisdom of letting television cameras into the house.

26 Tamils and two soldiers killed

Indian troops smash rebel hideouts

COLOMBO, March 16. (Reuters): At least 26 Tamil separatist guerrillas and two soldiers were killed as thousands of Indian troops stormed rebel hideouts in northern Sri Lanka, military sources said today.

They said 5,000 soldiers swept through the jungle during the past four days smashing hideouts and training camps belonging to the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebel group.

They said a training camp for women guerrillas was among the hide-outs raided by Indian

troops in the Mankulam area and eight women were killed in the clash.

The operation, codenamed Vajra (sharp cutting), was launched last Saturday following stepped up attacks by the Tigers against Sinhalese villages in the Trincomalee district.

Rejected

More than 80 civilians, most of them belonging to the majority Sinhalese community, have been killed in ethnic violence during the past two weeks, the sources said.

US, Soviet defence ministers hold talks

BERN, March 16. (Reuters): US and Soviet defence leaders Frank Carlucci and Dmitry Yazov today began two days of unprecedented military talks aimed at further clearing the air of suspicion between the superpowers.

Soviet Defence Minister Yazov, 64, and his American counterpart, Carlucci, 57, sat down in a small second floor room at the US embassy in neutral Switzerland's capital for discussions on military doctrine, arms control and other issues.

The morning talks were to be followed by a working lunch at US ambassador's residence and an afternoon round at the Soviet embassy. They will wind up tomorrow morning with a breakfast and final session at the Soviet embassy.

Yazov, who does not speak English, did not comment.

Yazov, an Army general appointed to the top defence post by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last May, and Carlucci were dressed in dark business suits as they faced each other across a table which almost filled the room. Aides and interpreters joined them.

Indication

There was no indication whether Carlucci immediately demanded an apology from the Soviet side for the 1985 shooting of US Army major Arthur Nicholson by Soviet troops in East Germany.

Carlucci said earlier that he intended to seek a formal apology, which Moscow has never given, for the shooting of Nicholson, a member of the US military inspection team stationed in East Germany.

Both Yazov and Carlucci said this week they hoped the meeting, prompted by warming relations between Moscow and Washington, would help ease suspicion by the superpowers of each other's military aims in an increasingly complex world.

"I can think of nothing more important to discuss here than our motives, our force structure and our doctrine," Carlucci said in a formal toast at a dinner given for the two men last night by the Swiss government.

Queen gets a pay rise

LONDON, March 16. (AP): Queen Elizabeth II and her family got an average 4.6 per cent raise in yesterday's annual government budget, hiking to £5,535,700 (\$10,241,000) the annual direct cost of the royal family.

The Civil List section of the budget, announced in Parliament by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, goes mostly toward clerical expenses and salaries for people ranging from the Queen's secretaries to Buckingham Palace cleaners.

3 die in gun attack on IRA funeral

BELFAST, March 16. (Reuters): Three people were killed and 23 wounded in a gun and grenade attack on mourners at the funeral of three IRA guerrillas today, a hospital spokesman said.

At least four of the injured were in a serious condition after the attack in which about 15 shots were fired and five or six grenades lobbed.

Police said a man was arrested and taken to hospital after the attack, which supporters of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) blamed on protestant extremists.

Eyewitnesses said the unidentified man was believed to have been chased and badly beaten by some of the 10,000 mourners. The gunfire and explosions rang out seconds after the coffin of Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage had been lowered into graves at Milltown cemetery in Catholic West Belfast.

Ambush

The three were being given a full IRA funeral after being shot dead in an Army ambush in the British colony of Gibraltar on March 6 while taking part in an abortive bombing mission.

Riots broke out immediately in several Roman Catholic areas of West Belfast where IRA youths barricaded streets with hijacked vehicles and set them ablaze.

During a week of violent unrest in Belfast which followed the guerrillas' deaths, an IRA sniper was killed by security forces and a Catholic supermarket worker was shot dead.

A man in blue overalls crept up on the burial ceremony from the nearby MI motorway and threw hand grenades, an eyewitness said.

He fired into the crowd with an automatic pistol which he reloaded twice, killing two men and a woman.

The casualties included a 10-year-old boy hit in the back. Eyewitnesses reported panic in the cemetery when the explosions and a volley of shots rang out.

A woman with a blood-covered face lay screaming on the ground near the open graves after apparently having been hit by a sharpnel.

Officials of Sinn Féin, the outlawed IRA's legal political wing, appealed for calm as the dead and wounded fell at the graveside and terrified mourners dived for cover.

A Tiger leader in Mankulam, identified only as Kandayan, was captured in the operation.

The Tigers group has rejected a peace accord signed by Sri Lanka and India to end ethnic conflict on the island that has killed more than 8,000 people in the past five years.

The Tigers are conducting an armed campaign to set up an independent homeland for the Tamil minority, most of whom live in the North and East of the country.

Fifty thousand Indian troops have been deployed to hunt down

and disarm the Tigers, who refused to hand over their arms under the accord.

A senior Sri Lankan minister who flew to New Delhi yesterday is expected to tell Indian authorities that more Sri Lankan troops should be posted in the Trincomalee district to protect the Sinhalese there, government sources said.

Stopped

Meanwhile Indian troops stopped a fast by a 58-year-old woman at Mamangam Hindu temple in Batticaloa today and

took her to a military camp. Officials in Colombo said.

A spokeswoman for the Indian High Commission said the Indians were acting on a complaint made by the woman's children that their mother was fasting against her will and under duress.

The woman, Devi Annamma, on the 25th day of her protest, was backing demands by the mothers front, a group whose families have been affected by ethnic violence, for an end to fighting between Indian troops and the Tigers.



Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov (left) shakes hands with his US counterpart Frank Carlucci at the start of their talks at the US embassy in Bern. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shoot-Aquino order recorded on tape, court told

MANILA, March 16. (Reuters): A lieutenant was recorded on tape ordering his soldiers to shoot Benigno Aquino just before the Philippine opposition leader was assassinated in 1983, a Japanese sound expert testified today.

Matsumi Suzuki, who analysed video and audio tapes made by journalists at the time of the murder, identified Air Force Lieutenant Jesus Castro as the officer who shouted "pusila" (shoot) moments before the fatal shot rang out.

Castro is among 34 soldiers and three civilians on trial in a Manila court for the murder of President Corazon Aquino's husband, who was shot on August 21, 1983, as he returned from US exile. The 37 deny the charges.

Confuse

Castro beaded the security team that escorted Aquino from his plane on his arrival at Manila airport.

Aquino's killing led to the overthrow of President Marcos in a civilian-backed Army revolt

two years later. Marcos said the assassin was alleged communist Rolando Galman, whom soldiers immediately killed after Aquino was shot.

Suzuki, President of the Japan Acoustics Laboratory, gave testimony suggesting the military tried to cover up its role in the killing and confuse investigators by saying Aquino was killed with a .357 calibre Magnum Revolver. He said the sound of gunshot on tape showed the weapon was a .45 calibre pistol.

None of the tapes made by journalists who were with Aquino showed the actual shooting but they captured sounds of gunfire, footsteps and the frantic voices of soldiers moments before Aquino was shot in the back.

Defence lawyers tried to stop Suzuki from testifying, saying no Philippine court had ever allowed evidence based on analysis of sounds caught on the tape and that US courts spurned similar testimony. The court threw out the objections.

Suzuki said he used a spec-

trograph and other equipment to analyse the sounds on tape and identify the voices by comparing them with voice recordings made by soldiers in an inquiry after the murder.

Suzuki identified three other soldiers — sergeants Arnulfo Mesa and Claro Lat and constable Mario Lazaga — as having said, in the main Philippine dialect Tagalog, before Aquino was shot, "eto na, eto na" (he's coming, he's coming), and "ako na, ako na" (I'll do it, I'll do it).

Then, came the shout: "Pusila."

Chief prosecutor Raul Gonzales said the shout "can have no other meaning" except that it was "the order" to shoot Aquino.

Suzuki's analysis of footsteps also showed Aquino was killed on the plane stairway, where only soldiers were in a position to shoot him, and not on the tarmac, as the military insisted.

The trial is taking place in a special Manila court set up to bear cases against erring government personnel.

Anderson starts fourth year in captivity

BEIRUT, March 16. (AP): Two Lebanese newspapers today published letters addressed to kidnapped American journalist Terry Anderson and his captors on the third anniversary of his abduction in West Beirut.

The independent An Nahar and the Sunni Muslim Al Liwa also published a picture of Anderson's 2-year-old daughter Sulome, who was born after his March 16, 1985, abduction by Islamic Jihad.

"Here is Sulome, our daughter, wishing you a safe return home, daddy," said a letter to Anderson from Madeleine Sulome's mother.

"She often asks about you. Wondering which of all the planes she is seeing will be the one bringing daddy home..." the letter said.

"Beirut is heaven on earth for her because you are there. Now she is beginning to understand that things will change and one day we will be together to never separate again," the letter to Anderson said.

Anderson, 40, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, has two daughters, Sulome and Gabrielle, 10. His father and elder brother died while he was in captivity. He is the longest-held of 22 foreign hostages in Lebanon.

In a letter to the kidnappers, the US-based Journalists Committee to Free Terry Anderson pleaded with Islamic Jihad to "release him in the name of humanity."

"It was three years ago today that Terry was taken hostage. For three years he has not seen his family, not been able to talk with us, and not been able to be our brother, son, father and friend," the letter said.

Bush and Simon win Illinois vote leaves Democrats confused

CHICAGO, March 16. (AP): The Democrats' search for a presidential front-runner was stalled yesterday by the bone-stale revival of Sen. Paul Simon, victor over Jesse Jackson in the Illinois primary. Vice-President

was easily in the Republican contest, although he still had to contend with a battered but dogged Sen. Bob Dole.

White House clinched two-thirds of the delegates needed for his nomination at this summer's national convention — the Democrats were far from locking up anything. The race for a nominating majority of delegates was tied between Jackson and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis.

Discussions

However, Dukakis was expected to pick up about 100 uncounted delegates from caucus already held in Minnesota, Texas and Washington state.

"I don't believe we have any front-runners," Dukakis said after finishing what he described as "a respectable third" in Illinois. He said in his discussions with Democratic Party leaders around the country "there is an overwhelming sentiment that we should get behind a nominee."

Maid ban lifted for Hong Kong, Canada

MANILA, March 16. (Reuters): The Philippines today lifted a ban against Filipino women going to work as maids in Hong Kong and Canada.

Labour Secretary Franklin Drilon told reporters the ban was scrapped as Canada and the British colony had laws "providing sufficient safeguards that guarantee protection for Filipino domestic helpers."

The government imposed the

ban on March 1 following alleged abuse of domestic helpers, including rape and non-payment of salaries.

Drilon said more than 40,000 Filipino women work as domestic helpers in Hong Kong and Canada.

He said negotiations were continuing with Singapore and Middle East nations where thousands more Filipino domestics work.

The next major battleground for the Democrats was the neighbouring state of Michigan, which holds party caucuses on March 26.

For the Republicans, the next big test was northeastern Connecticut, with a primary on March 29. That should produce another big win for Bush, whose father represented the state in the US Senate.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Avalanches

JAMMU, India, March 16. (UPI): Authorities today put at 87 the number of people killed last week in hizzards, heavy rains and avalanches that swept the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Officials said 61 people died in avalanches that hit two mountain villages on Saturday night in the northern state's Ladakh region, 160 miles (260 km) northwest of Jammu, the winter capital of the state.

The avalanches swept away three dozen homes and came after hizzards that dumped huge amounts of snow on ridges above the villages. The accumulated snow was loosened by subsequent rainfall.

Officials said rain and snow were also responsible for deaths in other areas of the state.

Ship fire

NEW YORK, March 16. (Reuters): A cruise liner with 707 people aboard was dead in the water in the Gulf of Mexico after reporting a fire in the engine room, the US coast guard said today.

The 465-foot (142-metre) Scandinavian Star sent an emergency message at 1:17 am (0167 GMT) reporting the fire and asking for nearby vessels to be ready to evacuate if necessary. Lieutenant Jim Dale said by telephone from the Coast Guard's Miami operations centre.

Unofficial march

BUDAPEST, March 16. (Reuters): More than 10,000 people, chanting "democracy," marched through Budapest in Communist Hungary's largest independent demonstration since the anti-Communist uprising of 1956.

They paraded in the capital yesterday, waving banners and applauding calls before parliament for reform and national independence.

"It shows that the opposition is getting stronger," one seasoned Western observer told Reuters.

Hunger strike

NEW DELHI, March 16. (UPI): Sixteen Tibetan refugees and an Indian supporter will go on a "fast unto death" to press for the release of Tibetans detained in anti-Chinese protests in Lhasa and a UN probe into casualties and arrests. It was announced today.

Lhasan Tsering, president of the Tibetan Youth Congress, an exile group demanding an end to Chinese rule of Tibet, said the hunger strike would begin tomorrow morning in front of the UN Information Centre in New Delhi.

Strip show draws union members

LONDON, March 16. (Reuters): A union meeting of construction workers in northwest England attracted five times the normal attendance when members heard it was going to finish with a show by two female strippers.

But the meeting, in a nightclub at Distington, provoked criticism from a rival branch of the union of construction, Allied Trades and Technicians yesterday.

"The trade union movement stands for equal opportunities yet here we have one branch using gutter tactics to attract people to meetings," Willy Whalen, Secretary of the Union's neighbouring Carlisle branch.

He called the show "a disgraceful exploitation of women."

De Mita named

ROME, March 16. (Reuters): President Francesco Cossiga asked Christian Democrat leader Ciriaco de Mita today to try to form Italy's 48th government since World War Two, presidential officials announced.

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Arab World Institute in Paris

Projecting true Arab image

By Jadranka Porter

TILL two years ago Western Europe had a grossly distorted image of the Arab world. This began changing because of the greater accessibility to factual knowledge on the Arab countries, their wiser policies and a better comprehension of the Arab problems by Europe's media, according to Paul Carton, the president of the Arab World Institute in Paris, currently visiting Kuwait.

The institute itself is expected to boost efforts toward better understanding not only between the Arab and European governments but between their peoples, said Carton.

13-year gap

He is on a Gulf tour that will also take him to the UAE with a mission to explain the impact of the institute's activities on the French public. In Kuwait, Carton was received by HH the Amir.

There was a 13-year gap — possibly reflecting the ebb and flow in the Euro-Arab relations — between the time when the idea of the institute germinated and when it was opened last November.

In the first few months of its existence the institute has turned into a hub of intellectual activity projecting topics linked to Arab culture, exhibiting Arab and Islamic artefacts and promoting Arab music.

Supervising

The nine-storey institute houses a museum which has a collection of 600 objects d'art on display mainly belonging to the Louvre and the Museum of Oceanic and African Arts. Carton hopes that the Arab countries will make their own contributions to the collection.

The institute aims to promote Arab artists enabling them to present their work in its contemporary arts gallery. An exhibi-



Paul Carton

tion featuring the history of an Arab town, in this case Sanaa, has been held in the gallery. The exhibition will also tour some of the large cities in France.

A colloquium on the place of

the Arab world in French cultural and intellectual life, held recently in the institute's auditorium, raised a lot of interest among the French Arabists, media, musicologists and university professors. The event included a display of Arab national dress and performances of Arab music and dances.

The institute plays an important role in supervising the Arab cinema week and in producing studies and editing books on the Arab cinema.

Searcher

But above all it is a treasure house of information. It has got a library which can seat 150 people and which has been extensively used, said Carton. Plans are underway to increase the current number of 40,000 books to the library's full capacity of 100,000.

An audio-visual facility at the institute provides information accompanied by photographs on a variety of topics dealing with

the Arab world, with a robot searcher capable of fetching the required information. The Wall of the Arab Television is another facility with 24 screens running the TV programmes produced by TV stations in Arab countries.

The documentation centre contains 32 files on each country with wide-ranging information including that from press-cuttings. While the parents are studying or taking part in discussions the children can play and learn in the institute's classrooms supervised by three teachers.

The running of the institute is divided between France and the Arab countries. An equal number of French and Arab employers form its 185 strong staff but the tendency is to employ more Arabs, said Carton. France bore more than half of the building cost and is contributing some 60 per cent to the institute's annual budget.

Students protest new academic charter

KUWAIT University Students Union held a protest meeting at the Faculty of Science against the new academic charter. The chairman of the union Mohammed Al Dallal, speaking at the meeting, said things would be unstable at the university until the administration reconsiders the charter, which is unfair to students.

Al Dallal said the students had protested several times against the charter, but the university ignored their protests and insisted on implementing the charter.

The students attending the meeting sent a cable to the Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri stating their objections to the application of the charter.

Cultural season

KUWAIT'S Sociologists Association will have its ninth cultural season from March 20 to April 10, according to a local newspaper.

There will be a number of lectures and seminars on the social aspects of Kuwait's history.

Syria rejects new US Mideast peace plan

SYRIAN Ambassador to Kuwait Issa Darwish was quoted yesterday as affirming that his country has rejected the US plan on solving the Middle East crisis, saying that it does not include a comprehensive just solution, and only preserves Israel's interests.

Darwish told a Kuwaiti newspaper that the new US initiative considers the Palestinians as refugees and ignores their right to self-determination and freedom on their own lands.

He added that it also ignores that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of Palestinians and the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem.

Regarding an international peace conference, Darwish said that the US proposal which was tabled by US Secretary of State George Shultz during his recent tour in the Mideast region gave the conference a marginal role.

The US recent initiative bypasses the core of the Middle

East problem namely the Palestinian cause and the Palestinians self-determination, he said.

On the Palestinian uprising, the ambassador called for supporting the more than three-month old uprising by all means.

Responding to a question on his country's relations with the PLO, the Syrian ambassador said that a number of contacts have been made with the organisation's leadership and exchanges of opinions were made to serve their joint struggle.

Rqobah meets PIC officials

MINISTER of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqobah yesterday received in his office the chairman of the board of directors of the Petrochemical Industries Company, Adnan Yousuf Al Mir and members of the board.

They discussed ways and means to find a solution to several related issues.

New clinics planned

DRAHMAD Rajae Al Jindi, the Director General of the Kuwait Islamic Medicine Centre, said the centre is considering the establishment of new clinics for specialised treatment.

In an interview with Seyassah newspaper, Dr Al Jindi said the centre treated 24,000 patients last year, 90 per cent of whom required continuing treatment for diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

He added that the centre had recently expanded its production of medicines, which were made from raw materials imported from Arab countries. The director explained that the centre was also involved in research activities and tests on drugs made primarily from herbs.

The centre offered treatment for only six common diseases when it opened about a year ago, he said, adding that this number has now reached 13. Dr Jindi said the main types of treatment were for allergy-related conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

He emphasised that the centre's services were available to neighbouring Arab and Muslim countries at reduced charges because of the availability of the medicinal substances used.

Fined KD500 each for fraud

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours fined four men KD500 each for commercial fraud.

The court found that the four men, one of whom was a pharmacist, had been selling imitation perfume at prices of the original item and misleading customers.

The men's plea of not guilty was changed during the course of the courtroom proceedings to a guilty plea.

Sudanese leader urges Arabs to unify stand

SUDANESE President Ahmed Al Merghani has emphasised the importance of implementing "all Arab charters and agreements" to achieve Arab solidarity and to counter external challenges.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper published yesterday, Al Merghani called on Arab leaders and peoples to extend support to the popular uprising, currently raging in the occupied Arab territories, adding, an urgent Arab summit conference should be convened towards this end.

Calling on the two Gulf belligerents, Iraq and Iran, to put an end to their protracted conflict, the Sudanese head of state urged Arab countries to unify their stances and back Iraq, which responded to all peace calls, including Security Council resolution 598.

Rapprochement
He said restoring security in the Arab Gulf region and putting an end to the bloodshed between the two neighbouring Muslim countries, required implementation of "all Arab charters and agreements".

Al Merghani, currently on a ten-day tour that includes Libya, Malta and Morocco, said Arab solidarity depends on rapprochement between Arab states, "we insist on restoring Egyptian-Libyan relations", adding he will discuss the matter with Libyan leaders in a bid to fulfil that goal.

The Sudanese official said he expects the Sudanese-Egyptian "fraternity charter" to be signed next month and noted that Egyptian Premier Atif Sidki is scheduled to pay a visit to Khartoum this coming April.

On his country's relations with Kuwait, Al Merghani spoke highly of Kuwait's continued assistance and support to Sudan.

He said Kuwaiti aid to Sudan during years of drought and desertification, and assistance to development schemes in south Sudan "constitute enough proof of greatness of Kuwait" which works toward verification of Arab and Islamic identity.

Extending best wishes and regards to HH the Amir of Kuwait, HH the Crown Prince and Premier and the Kuwaiti government, Al Merghani asserted that Sudan "backs, boundlessly, the Kuwaiti people in face of threats and challenges" aimed at destroying the Arab identity in the Arabian Gulf.

On Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, Al Merghani said Sudan is not in enmity with Ethiopia, noting that diplomatic drives are

currently underway to improve relations between the two countries.

He said his country is keen on preserving its sovereignty and dignity, and emphasised that Sudan will not accept "bargaining".

Khartoum accuses Addis Ababa of backing the insurgents' movement in South Sudan, while Addis Ababa says Khartoum allows Eritrean fighters to launch attacks against Ethiopian Army outposts from Sudanese territories.

Al Merghani said the South Sudan problem can be solved internally and without foreign interference, indicating that the Sudanese Army, operating in the south, "is in full control".

On the economic crisis in Sudan, he said the government has taken necessary measures to correct the situation in the country.

Kuwait's coastal waters free from pollution

AT a recent seminar held by Kuwait Engineers Society on marine environmental pollution, Dr Mohammad Al Sarawi said Kuwait's coastal waters are free from pollution for the time being.

Dr Al Sarawi from Kuwait University's Geology Department said that a recent microbiology study conducted along the seafloor from Ras Al Ardh to Shuwaikh confirmed other findings showing Kuwait free of pollution in these waters.

Dr Mukhlis Abu Saada, the

head of Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research hydrology team, said Kuwait was one of the few countries that had planned for its coastal development. He added that the plans had been revised from time to time to keep up with changes covering coastal installations, power stations, afforestation areas, water desalination and entertainment areas.

He added that KISR had created a mathematical formula for determining coastal bottom sediment, which had proved important in designating suitable places for the construction of ports and entertainment areas.

A general plea was made to the public to keep Kuwait's coastal area clean so the country could maintain its pollution-free waters.

Filling stations employees

EMPLOYEES of petrol filling stations of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) will be made redundant within a few years, according to a local newspaper.

It said KNPC was planning to convert all the filling stations into self service ones, and eight will be converted each year.

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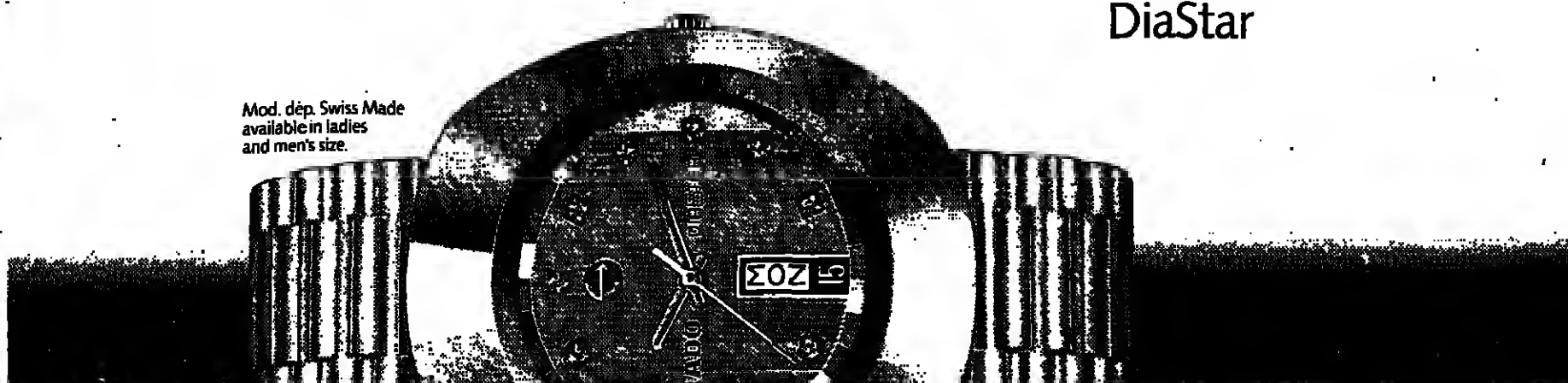
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Kuwaiti graduates being given job oriented training

SHEIKH Mohammed Al Salmao, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Civil Service Commission, said Kuwaiti graduates of Kuwait University were given training courses after job appointments to gain further experience in their work field, especially when their majors were different from the job to which they were appointed.

He said the training courses were held by the Public Administration Department at Kuwait University in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission, adding that the CSC tries to appoint Kuwaiti graduates to jobs that are suitable to their

training.

The Director General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science Dr Ali Al-Shamlan said most of the staff of Kfas were graduates of Kuwait University and had proven themselves to be efficient in their work.

Fluency

He suggested that authorities study the needs of the local labour market and recommended that Kuwaiti students be encouraged to study majors that are needed locally. Kfas organises training courses for newly appointed employees, he said, and sends some workers abroad

to receive specialised training.

The Assistant Director of Personnel at the Kuwait Foreign Trading and Investment Company Khawla Al Roumi said the academic standard of graduates of Kuwait University was the same as that of European and American graduates. She said that graduates of Kuwait University simply lack fluency in English which is essential for work in investment companies.

She said the company offers nine to 12 months training courses in English to the US for Kuwaiti graduates of Kuwait University who are appointed by the company in addition to nine months of on-the-job training.



Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah (second right) presents a certificate to one of the officers.

Shevardnadze sends message to Sabah

ACTING Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received a reply message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze delivered by the Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait, Ernest Zverev during a meeting with Sheikh Sabah at the foreign ministry.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the messages dealt with the developments in the region and the dangerous escalation in the Iraq-Iran war.

Sheikh Sabah emphasised a new that any delay in implementing the Security Council resolution 598 would definitely lead to more disastrous and dangerous escalation ... and that is what is going at present represented by the shelling of cities, the victims of which are thousands of innocents.

He added that Shevardnadze's message also dealt with the situation of Afghanistan and the efforts underway toward reaching a settlement of the crisis there.

Concern

Zverev said the Soviet leadership well understands Kuwait's concern for the delay in reaching an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

The Ambassador told reporters that it is necessary that efforts of the international community concentrate on this direction to re-open the hope of a peaceful settlement for the Iraq-Iran conflict.

He added that he expressed during his talks with Sheikh Sabah the concern of Moscow about the resumption of the war of cities between Iran and Iraq, which is escalating the situation and increasing tension in the region.

He added that the Soviet Union had embarked on new measures at the UN Security

Council affirming that his country was prepared to cooperate with Kuwait and the Arab Gulf states with the aim of reaching a quick end to the conflict.

He further said that he delivered to Sheikh Sabah the text of the Soviet statement issued yesterday on the situation in Afghanistan and the reasons for the deadlock of the negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva on the Afghan crisis.

Sheikh Sabah yesterday presided over a meeting for a ministerial committee that discussed a number of state projects.

The committee grouped Minister of Finance Jassem Mobammed Al Khorafi, Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Al Houti, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting Planning Minister Rasheed Al Rashid.

35 officers complete training course

KUWAIT'S Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah presented certificates to 35 officers who had completed a training course which ran from February 14 to March 9.

Officers with ranks of major and captain took part in the course, including seven from Qatar and three from Saudi Arabia.

Sheikh Salem emphasised the role of the graduates in protecting the country's law and in deterring anyone who might threaten the stability and security of Kuwait.

Military exhibition.

CAIRO, March 16. (Kuna): An Egyptian military exhibition will open in Abu Dhabi next April 4, the Middle East News Agency (Mea) reported.

The one-week exhibition displays Egyptian military products, Mea added.

Kuwait's surgical expertise praised

AN internationally known Bulgarian medical professor praised the level of Kuwait's surgical expertise, saying Kuwait's surgeons can compete with many doctors in advanced countries. He added that they needed experience only.

Professor Karaj Youzof established the first neurological and brain surgery unit in Kuwait in 1959 and is now visiting the country by official invitation from the Ministry of Public Health.

Dr Youzof will supervise the neurological and brain surgery unit at the Bin Sina Hospital, which has nine surgeons headed by Dr Abbas Ramadan. He said that the Bin Sina unit is well-equipped with modern instruments and skilled surgeons.

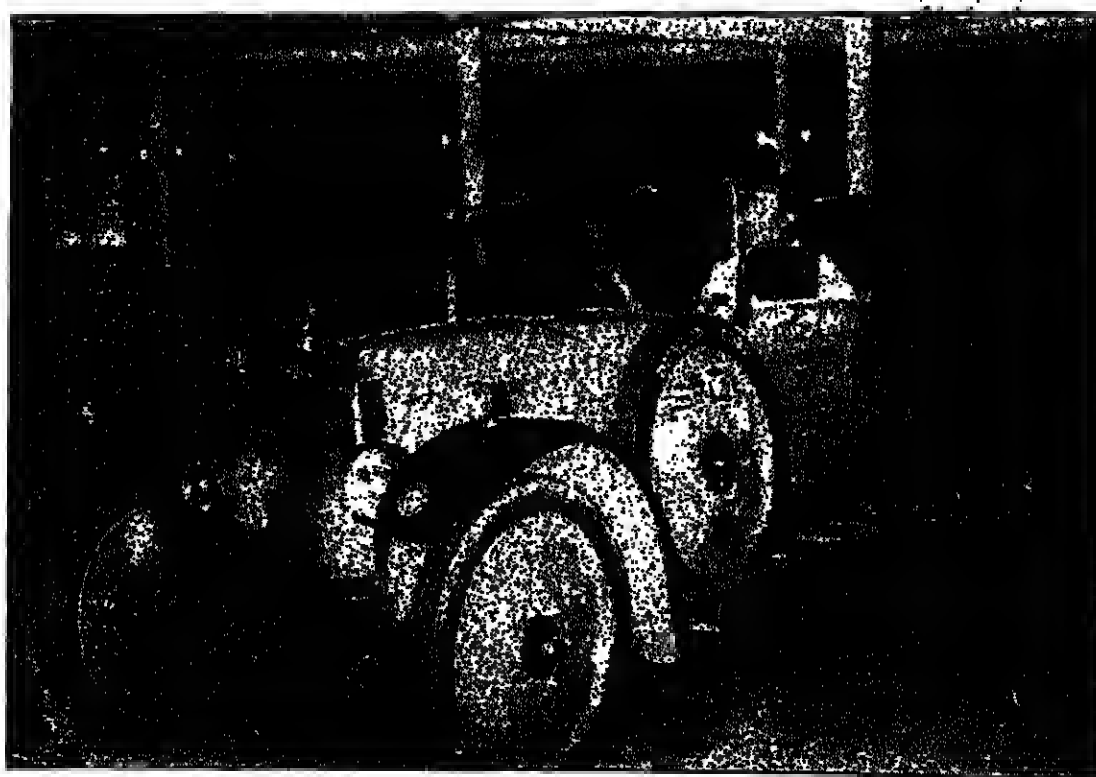
In 1959, Dr Youzof came to Kuwait as the first neurological and brain surgeon. He said that when he graduated from the Bulgaria University Medical College, the science of

neurological and brain surgery were new.

Dr Youzof conducted several complicated operations and said that most neurological operations were successful, but added that the psychological state of the patient was important in the success of any surgery.

London-Sydney Endurance Trial

Britons pass through Kuwait



Allnas and Partens in their car.

By Ghada Dahlan

TWO Englishmen, Brian Allnas and Michael Partens, who are taking part in the Australian Bicentennial London-Sydney Endurance Trial, left Kuwait yesterday. They said the rules required each team to take a different route which entailed the crossing of only one ocean, and to use a car manufactured before 1930.

The drivers told Al Seyassah newspaper that they were the only team that chose the Middle East route. They began the trip in January in a car built in 1924.

Brian said that he and his co-

driver would have to bear most of the cost of the journey because the Australian organisers contributed only a small percentage of the cost.

He said it took them two years to prepare their car for the trial and they altered the specification to help them complete the long journey without technical problems. They also carried the necessary spare parts.

Impression

Michael who works in the tourist field, said he considered the race as an adventure that would enable him to visit some new countries and areas. He said the journey had taken them through Egypt, Jordan, Saudi

Arabia and Kuwait and helped them to become acquainted with Arabs and their traditions.

He said that the people of these countries were generous, genuine and kind. He said the trip had brought him many surprises. He formerly had the impression that Arabs were bedouins who roamed around the Middle East desert.

The two drivers left for the UAE, India and Singapore and hoped to arrive in Sydney during May.

They said their car was worth about \$1.5 million and there were only three similar ones in the world. They pointed out that the car's value would double after they completed their journey.

Army to develop medical services

THE Director of Kuwait's Army Medical Centre Colonel Abdul Rahman Al Nasim said the Army plans to further develop its medical services for military staff.

He said the centre offers treatment for military staff and examines newly appointed employees and soldiers. Men who reach the age of 18 are also examined by the centre to determine their fitness for military service.

Al Nasim said the centre, which was established in 1978, is one of the main branches of the Directorate of Medical Services of the Kuwait Army.



Detectives of Kuwait's Capital Governorate arrested a non-Kuwaiti identified as Mahmoud A. for the theft of 52 batteries. Mahmoud A., a mechanic, stole the batteries from a car.



Kuwait's Defence Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, yesterday met the Secretary-General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, Dr Akram Nashat (right).

Israa Al Miraj celebrated

KUWAIT'S Youth Centres celebrated the ascension of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), Israa Al Miraj, with a meeting held under the patronage of the Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs at Kuwait's Social Affairs and Labour Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui.

Sheikh Mahmoud Aid, speaking at the meeting held at the Falha Youth Centre, presented a narration of the events surrounding this sacred Muslim holiday.

Other speakers praised the

Palestinians in the occupied territories and their fight against the Israeli oppressors. They prayed that the Aqsa Mosque would be liberated by the next anniversary of the holy occasion.

Saleh Al Shaiji, the acting director of the Youth and Infant Department at the ministry, officials and personnel also attended the meeting.

Bangladesh Welfare Association celebrated Israa Al Miraj at Pritchard camp.

Poultry production

KUWAIT'S poultry companies are producing 40 per cent of the country's requirements of eggs, according to a study prepared by the food resources department of the Kuwait Institute for Health Research.

It added that the average annual individual consumption was 28 kgs of chicken, 220 eggs and 37.5 kgs of mutton.

19 accidents

NINETEEN traffic accidents were reported in Kuwait on Tuesday; seven in Jahra and four each in the Capital, Hawalli and Ahmedi.

He added that the Soviet

Union had embarked on new

measures at the UN Security

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Table Talk

BY DINAH

DECIDING where to eat out in Kuwait ten years ago was a much simpler matter than it is today. Your choice was limited to the three main hotels (the Sheraton, Hilton or Messilah Beach), a handful of Arab cafes like Jabris or Al Ghanim's or one of the Caesar's chain. In that decade Caesar's Chinese restaurant, located behind the Sheraton, has changed little. The menu might have been reprinted, but the contents are the same; many of the same waiters are still there to welcome you; apart from a coat of paint the odd decor — bland beige wardrobe-door type paneling — hasn't altered a bit; but, best of all, the prices have hardly increased at all. Caesar's even attracts the same kind of customers as it did all that time ago: hungry Western bachelors, Indian families with small children and Kuwaiti

couples looking for an economical night out. Even with all the competition it faces today, Caesar's is still able to fill its tables night after night. So who can blame them for being conservative when they have obviously hit upon a very successful formula?

The menu offers a choice of either Western dishes — steaks, salads and sizzlers or a wide range of American-style "Chinese" food, averaging around KD1,500 a dish. The style of cooking bears little relation to real Chinese food but, being rather bland in flavour, it appeals to people who want a solid, filling meal without rich, exotic sauces. It's almost Chinese-style nursery food. Portions are large and your waiter will gladly parcel up any left-overs for you to take away. As similar vegetables are used in practically every dish, there is insufficient contrast in flavour and texture, though.

Mixture

We started our meal with glasses of appetizing fresh lemon juice. Our starter — mixed special spring rolls — was a filling dish of prawns, chicken and vegetables inside a rather heavy dough case. The four main course dishes we ordered included chicken with cashew nuts — tender strips of chicken breast cooked with a generous helping of roasted cashews, green pepper, cabbage, beans/onions and peas. The Beef Chow Mein contained the same vegetable mixture with the addition of carrots and

soggy lettuce. The rather tough beef was not of the best quality, but the noodles were tasty. The vegetable fried rice contained the same carrots, cabbage, peas, beans, and onion mixture. For a prawn dish we chose the exotic-sounding "Cambodian Enco" which comprised six giant prawns coated in a thick, doughy batter and served in a delicate sauce of tomato and coconut milk.

The desert menu was as limited as it is in most Chinese restaurants and, in fact, we finished the meal with Kouli — Indian ice-cream made from thick cream, pistachios and almonds. Caesar's do an excellent version of it and it's well worth trying if you are still hungry after the main course.

Including Turkish coffee the total bill came to KD9,400 including 10% service, which was good value for money, as we had enough food left over to take away for a delicious meal the next day. The service was quick and courteous and the atmosphere warm and unpretentious. Dimly lit, with tables placed close together, Caesar's has a friendly, family feeling which makes it the kind of place the solitary diner can eat without feeling lonely.

Restaurant: Caesar's
Type: American-style Chinese
Meal: Three course
Price: KD9,400 (for two)
Star rating (out of five):
Food: ★★
Atmosphere: ★★
Service: ★★
Value for money: ★★

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Cairo Pharmacy
Tukhaim Bldg., Fahd Al Salem St.
Ibn Rushd Pharmacy
Souk Al Kuwait Bldg., Souk Duaij

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Nasser Pharmacy
Tunis St.

Salhiya and Rumaithiya
Al Markaziya Pharmacy
Asfor Bldg., Omar Bin Al Aas St.

Fahad and Ahmad
Al Wafa Pharmacy
Dabbous Palace, Dabbous St., F'heel

Khaitan
Al Khaitan Pharmacy
Ibrahim Bin Adham St.

Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Souk

FRIDAY

Kuwait
Al Jahra Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Hakim Pharmacy
Jaher Al Mubarak St., Sharq.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Badr Pharmacy
Tunis St., Hawalli

Salhiya and Rumaithiya
Al Samah Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.

Khaitan
Al Hayat Pharmacy
Main St.

Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Jahra Cooperative Society

Fahad and Ahmad
Al Itihad Pharmacy
Makkah St., F'heel



Kevin Eubanks: guitarist

American trio to hold jazz concert

A WELL-KNOWN American jazz band presents a concert of contemporary jazz in Kuwait next week.

The Kevin Eubanks Trio, which is currently touring the world, arrives in Kuwait from India early next week to perform at the Kuwait University Sports Stadium in Shuwaikh.

The trio — guitar, bass, drums, performs an energised brand of contemporary jazz featuring fast-paced virtuoso playing. Some works in the bebop, straight-ahead jazz tradition while others incorporate elements of rock and funk. Many are Kevin Eubank's own compositions.

Leonard Feature of the Los Angeles Times described Eubanks as "one of the two most important additions ... today's guitar scene."

Eubanks, who recently turned 30, rose to fame performing with Art Blakey, McCoy Tyner and Slide Hampton. In addition to Eubanks who plays both acoustic and electric guitars, the group consists of Rael Wesley Grand on bass and Eugene Jackson on drums, plus a sound technician and road manager.

Besides concerts, Eubanks can also conduct workshops, part talks and part demonstration, on contemporary music and how it relates to the jazz

tradition, particularly from a guitar perspective. He can also do a history of jazz guitar, showing a variety of styles performed on this instrument. Eubanks has a degree in composition from the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

In Kuwait the Trio will play selections from The Heat of Heat (Terry Lewis and James Harris III); Palace of the Seven Jewels (Onaj Allan Gumb); First Things First (George Benson); Nardis (Miles Davis); Sojourn (Patrice Rushen); That's What Friends Are For (Burt Bacharach); Moments Aren't Moments (Stevie Wonder); Wave (Carlos Jobim); Relatin' at Camarillo (Charles Parker) and Thick Bag (Wes Montgomery).

Eubanks will also perform his own compositions including Smile, Third Interior, Face to Face, Essence, A Silent Waltz and Ebony Sunrise.

The concert is being held jointly under the auspices of the Artistic Activity Administration of Kuwait University and the Cultural Office of the American Embassy. It will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 7.30 pm, at the Kuwait University Sports Stadium, Shuwaikh Campus. All are welcome. No admission fee, no reserved seats.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus

Closed

Al Jahra

Arabic play

Al Hamra

Tough Guys

Starring: Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster

Drive-In

Shahab Fi Al Jaheem (Arabic)

Starring: Mamdouh Abdul Alim, Mirvat Ameem

Al Firdous

Namak Halal (Hindi)

Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Smriti Patil

Fahad Open-Air

Dibruha Tangewali (Hindi)

Starring: Hemant Birje, Sripradha Krishna

Al Fatahel

Punar Milan (Bengali)

Al Jleeb

Mirch Masala (Hindi)

Starring: Smriti Patil, Naseeruddin Shah

Granada

Tarzan and His Mate

Salaikhath

Oridathu (Malayalam)

Al Jahra

Zaman Hatem Zahran (Arabic)

Ahmad Drive-In

Maut Samira (Arabic)

FRIDAY

Al Jahra

Hot Shots

Granada

Sindoor (Hindi)

Starring: Jeetendra, Rekha

Salaikhath

No Dead Heroes

Al Jleeb

Deewana Tera Naam Ka (Hindi)

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.35 am

Zuhr 11.56

Asr 3.23 pm

Maghreb 5.58

Isha 7.14

FRIDAY

Fajr 4.34 am

Friday Prayer 11.56

Asr 3.23 pm

Maghreb 5.59

Isha 7.15

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES



'The Cop' is the title of Friday's episode of Matlock, 9.05 pm, KTV 2.

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran

9.15 Cartoons

10.00 Fi Rihab Tariya: an educational programme presented by Jassim Al Ghareeb.

11.00 Songs

11.30 Islam wal Insaan: religious programme, hosted by Dr Abdul Suhoor Al Shabih.

12.00 Ma Da'a Wa Anhamia Min Akhbar Jahan: Arabic serial, starring Sheza Salem, Khalil Rifai, Mohammad Hussein Abdul Rahim.

1.00 News Summary

1.20 World News via Satellite

2.00 Liqa Al Khamis: roundup of local events

3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'laah: cartoons

4.00 News Summary

4.15 The Saint: Roger Moore plays the debonair detective, Simon Templar

5.25 Maktabat Ala Wa Hina: children's programme

6.00 Alwan: presented by Rolah Farah

7.00 News Summary

7.05 Show Jumping, presented by Ali Hamdi

7.30 Al Bahath an Al Saadah: Arabic serial. Starring: Samir Ghanem, Hassan Mustafa, Suad Nasar, Comedy.

8.30 With Islam: hosted by Dr. Khalid Al Madhkur

9.00 News in Arabic

10.00 From People's Art

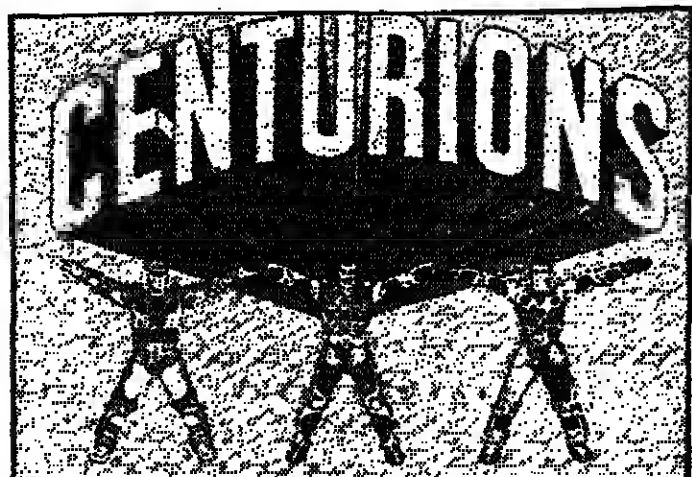
10.30 Sikkat Nidamah: Arabic feature film. Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Yusra, Najah Al Mauji, Ghada Al Sham'a.

12.00 Late Night Variety Show: hosted by Amina Al Sharrar.

1.30 News Summary

1.35 World News via Satellite

2.15 Holy Quran/Closedown



Centurions return with action for children, tonight on KTV 2.

FRIDAY

9.00 Holy Quran

9.30 Hikayat Min Al Alam: Stories from around the world

10.00 News Summary

10.05 World News via Satellite

10.20 Children's Magazine: a programme for young viewers.

11.00 Prophet's (PBUH) Saying: religious programme, presented by Dr Ahmad Abdul Noor

11.15 Friday Prayer

12.15 Min Wahi Al Ayaat Al Bayyanati: religious serial

1.00 News Summary

1.20 World News via Satellite

2.00 INTERVAL

2.30 Preview of next week's programme on KTV

3.15 Hadith Deeni: religious talk by Sheikh Mohammad Mutwalli Sharawi

4.00 Hub Min Al Sama'a: Arabic feature film. Starring: Najat Ali, Mohammad Ameen, Hussein Riyadh, Iham Hussein

7.00 News Summary

7.15 Kul al Funoon: hosted by Rasha Magdi

8.00 Weekly Seminar: a talk show on topical events in Kuwait

9.00 News in Arabic

10.00 Wrestling

10.45 Al Khurooj An Al Ma'louf: part one of local play starring Hayat Al Fahad, Sulaiman Yaseen, Ahmad Saleh, Directed by 'Abdul Rahman Al Mislain.

12.00 News Summary

12.05 World News Via Satellite

12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

2.25 Opening and Holy Quran

2.30 Report from S. Arabia

3.00 Big League Soccer

4.10 Football: Arab Gulf

Football

Tournament between UAE & Oman.

6.00 Centurions: cartoons

6.30 The Mickey Mouse club: a weekly show for young viewers.

7.00 Rags to Riches: "Vegas Rock." In this episode the girls follow Foley to Las Vegas.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Chipperfields Circus

9.05 Spenser for Hire: Tonight, Spenser is pursued by gangsters after taking up the case of an author who is being blackmailed.

9.30 Bill Cosby Show: "War Stories." Huxtable Senior comes to visit his son.

10.30 Late Night Movie: "The Culpepper Cattle Company."

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

3.00 Holy Quran

3.10 Cartoons

3.50 Arab Gulf Football Tournament: Kuwait vs Saudi Arabia

5.50 Bahrain vs Iraq

8.00 News in English

8.40 Breaking Away

9.05 Matlock: "The Cop". A murder is committed and a policeman is charged with the crime. Matlock, believing in the man's innocence, tries to find the real killer.

9.30 Weekend: local programme

10.00 Open All Hours: Ronnie Barker stars in this British comedy.

10.30 Wise Guy: Sonny's cover is blown when his nephew comes to town.

11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Country music contest

A WORLDWIDE contest which is being announced exclusively over the Voice of America this month will bring two lucky listeners to its "Country Music USA" programme to the United States beginning June 2 for ten exciting days of sightseeing, music and celebrities in Washington, D.C. and at the International Country Music Fair in Nashville, Tennessee.

Listeners to VOA's "Country Music USA" show, broadcast for one-half hour in English each Friday throughout the world, are asked to write a one-page essay in English on "What

Country Music Means To Me." All essays must be received at VOA headquarters in Washington, D.C. no later than March 25, 1988. The winner will be selected by judges from the VOA, The Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Association.

VOA Music Director Judy Massa, who produces and hosts the "Country Music USA" programme, said "Voice of America plays an important role in presenting country music to listeners overseas. Its appeal is universal ... country music truly is the best form of Americana."

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

Prize-giving Ceremony

The Bangladesh School, Kuwait, will hold the prize distribution ceremony on Friday, March 18, Friday, 6.30 pm, at the Ibn Taimiya Secondary School, Hassawi. All Bangladeshis are welcome.

May Queen

The May Queen will be crowned at a special event which will be held on May 16 at the Sheraton Hotel. Highlight of the evening will be a fashion show of clothes designed by Tapai Ray. Two local bands — Stepping Stones and City Limits — will provide entertainment. The event is being organised by the Kuwait Goans Association.

Weekend Club

The Club will host "Summer Queen '88" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr at the Regency Palace Hotel. The highlight of the evening will be the crowning of the Summer Queen '88 by last year's winner. Musical entertainment will be by Next of Kin and Top Ranks with Adolf performing latest numbers.

Filipino Get-together

The next "Kumustahan" (get-together) will be held on Saturday, March 26, in the Church Hall. All Filipinos are invited. Free snacks will be served. Admission free.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

The election of new committee members will be held at 8 pm on Saturday, March 19 at the Kuwait Hilton's Old Fialaka Room. All German-speaking members are required to attend this meeting.

Contact

The next meeting of the ladies information group, Contact, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Daniella

The '88 Revue will be performed at the Gazelle Club on March 17 at 7.30 pm. It is the major family event of the year. Children are welcome.

Kuwait Natural History Group

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 7.30 pm, at the Gulf English School, Salwa. An illustrated talk on "The Birds and Signs of the Golden Triangle" will be given by Prof. Charles Pilcher.

CINEMA

British Council

Little Lord Fauntleroy is the title of this month's film for children. It is a heart-warming story of eight year old Ceddie, whose happy life with his widowed American mother is transformed when he becomes Little Lord Fauntleroy. It will be shown tonight at 6 pm and on Thursday at 10.30 am.

This month's feature film for adults is entitled The Emerald Forest. The production by John Boorman is the mystical story of a young white boy spirited away by a tribe and then initiated into manhood and full membership. Elements of magic, fantasy, myth and anthropological fact are introduced in this story. This film will be shown at 6.30 pm on March 19 and 20. Admission free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel: 2515512.

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery

Egyptian artist Magdi Kenawy is showing his latest collection of lithographs and prints at the gallery in Salhiya Complex. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8 pm, until March 31.

Sultan Gallery

An exhibition of oil paintings by Pakistani artist Yasmeen Bhaimia will be held at the gallery, Al Soor St., from March 28. It will be open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm.

MUSIC

Rock 'n' Romance

Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance, a rock show with a romantic touch, directed by June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, featuring music by Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Elton John, Chopin and others. It will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2 pm, or 5745838.

Musical Nite

Funkada, a local music group, will hold Rang Trang, a musical nite, on March 24, 7.30 pm, at the Sharq Cooperative Society Hall. Entrance is by invitation only. Contact the organisers for details.

Jazz Concert

The American jazz band, the Kevin Eubanks Trio, will give a concert at the Kuwait University Sports Stadium Shuwaikh, on Tuesday, March 2

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow — Chinese proverb.

Rich and poor help uprising

By Rana Sabbagh

AMMAN, (Reuters): From bankers to bus-drivers, people in Jordan are reaching into their pockets to help Palestinians fighting Israeli occupation on their doorstep.

A committee raising funds to sustain a three-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has collected more than \$1.5 million since it was set up in January, treasurer Mamdouh Al Ahbadi said.

Donors range from the chairman of Jordan's biggest bank to labourers at the foot of the pay-scale, Ahbadi said.

Arab Bank chairman Abdul Majid Shoman, heading the committee of professional, trade and labour groups, has contributed about \$375,000, including \$75,000 from his personal account, Ahbadi said.

Ata, an office-boy in a Palestinian-owned engineering firm, has chipped in with three dinars (\$10) from his 80-dinar (\$239) pay packet. "People should give according to what God has given them," he said.

Gifts
At least 60 per cent of Jordan's estimated 2.8 million people are of Palestinian origin and many of its professional associations have sister-branches in the West Bank.

Fund officials said gifts had also come from East Bankers moved by the struggle unfolding across the Jordan River.

"As long as the uprising continues, we shall continue to gather cash donations to support our families who are shouldering extra burdens beyond their means," Ahbadi said.

At least 90 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds more wounded, beaten or jailed since protests began on Dec 9. Strikes and curfews have disrupted normal economic life.

The committee plans to give \$3,000 to each bereaved family and \$600 to those injured by gun-

fire or beatings. It has also decided to give \$190,000 to eight hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza and to buy six ambulances.

Companies, banks and professional groups have sponsored austerity launches or asked employees to give a day's salary.

Jordan's government has exempted all donations from tax. It wants to channel public money and donations through the zakat (alms) fund of the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Distributed
The ministry says the fund has distributed about \$90,000 in monthly compensation payments to families of people killed in the occupied territories with each family getting between \$150 and \$225 a month.

The government says the fund is the only legal way to deliver money to the occupied territories.

Israel has said it will stop Palestinians travelling to the West Bank from bringing in more than \$1,000 per person in hard currency. Fund-raising committee sources said money could be smuggled in or sent through informal channels without interference from Jordan or the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Diplomats say Jordan and the PLO have in the past used financial means to compete for influence in the West Bank.

They also cooperate within a Joint Steadfastness Fund, established in 1978 by the Arab League, which last week allocated \$32 million to the occupied areas, though it has in hand only \$19 million from Saudi Arabia.

Occupied Territories Minister Marwan Doudia told Reuters the disparity showed how urgently West Bank health, social, housing and educational projects needed funds.

"We welcome any kind of aid," he said. "The money should go to sectors, not individuals ... and we should get together with the fund-raising committee and the zakat to avoid duplication."

Democratisation in Asia

A new political relationship likely

By Takashi Oka

TAIPEI, Taiwan: With Roh Tae Woo's accession to South Korea's Presidency, East Asia has three leaders who seem remarkably similar in their informality, accessibility, and lack of affectation: Roh, President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, and Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of Japan.

South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan share another characteristic: Their economies are dynamic, with hefty trade surpluses, especially with the United States. Their people are literate, hard-working, and hospitable to technical change.

Could these three lands come together in an East Asian version of the European Economic Community (EEC)?

Not in any formal sense, most political analysts would say. In the first place, historical memories are still too bitter: until Japan's defeat in World War II, both Korea and Taiwan were Japanese colonies. Secondly, both are parts of divided countries. Communist North Korea has been South Korea's implacable enemy. The People's Republic of China considers Taiwan a part of China and would strenuously oppose any arrangement that would tie the island more tightly to South Korea and Japan.

Yet informally, the Taiwanese and South Korean economies already are inextricably linked with Japan's, a linkage likely to become even closer in the future. Both Taiwan and South Korea rely heavily on Japanese parts for the cars and electronic items they export.

Import
The reverse is also becoming increasingly true. As the yen rises, Japanese makers scouring the region for cheaper parts are depending more and more on South Korean and Taiwanese components for their computers, tape decks, even cars. They are beginning to import finished goods from these countries as well. In time the final buyer may have difficulty knowing exactly how much of his purchase was

"Made in Japan" — or Taiwan, or South Korea.
Taiwan's President Lee referred to this linkage at his press conference recently in the following terms. "The 'team' comprised of Japan, South Korea, and the Republic of China (Taiwan) plays a pivotal and interrelated economic role ... I believe the relations between these three countries will be increasingly close."

This was probably the first time since World War II that an East Asian leader has referred to the three countries as a "team."

President Lee did not mention it, but the democratisation that has been going on both in South Korea and in Taiwan makes a new political relationship between these two countries and Japan possible. It is because of democratisation that the three countries can deal with each other without complexes.

Deal
When Korea's government was authoritarian and military-dominated, the Japanese perforce had to deal only with the government or with enterprises that had the government's blessing. Local opposition figures attacked the government for allegedly corrupt dealings with Japan, and also accused the Japanese of toadying to a hated dictatorial regime. Similar situations arose in Taiwan before democratisation began in earnest a year ago. The Japanese had to beware of being used as scapegoats.

Today, however, both in Taiwan and in South Korea, the contest between the government and the opposition has been transferred from streets and campuses to more normal legislative channels, while a progressively unshackled media watches hawk-like over the process. Some demonstrations will undoubtedly continue, as they do in most democratic lands. But except in emergencies, the power of the Army or of the police probably will not be invoked to muzzle debate or to throw political troublemakers in jail.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Price is justified

SIR: This refers to Shahid Iqbal's letter "Reduce the price" (AT, March 10) in which he demanded a reduction in the price of the Arab Times from 150 fils to 100 fils.

I want to point out that most of the people waste about 500 fils daily on smoking, spend KD 3 per week on video cassettes, but when it comes to buying newspapers they claim they cannot pay 150 fils (900 fils per week) a day to know about the happenings around the world.

It is also not true that the Urdu pages cover almost everything otherwise they would have printed the Arab Times in Urdu for the eyes of Mr Iqbal only. I believe one page is more than enough for Urdu and I suggest they use the other page for Hindi because there are many people who cannot read either English or Urdu but they can read Hindi. I am sure they would love to read Firoz/Rangonwala's articles which are published in English and Urdu. As most of the Indians and Pakistanis can read English what is the necessity for Urdu pages?

Arab Times employees work day and night in order to keep their readers satisfied. I think it

is high time we pay more, for I think even 200 fils would not compensate for their efforts and the material published.

Ali Behbahani,
Hawaili.

Remarks clarified

SIR: The news item entitled "Time ripe for Afghan settlement," does not accurately convey the gist of the Pakistani ambassador's remarks made during an interview with the Arab Times.

The interview was held primarily to discuss problems of the Pakistani community in Kuwait.

As the Afghan negotiations were mentioned in passing, it is best to clarify what the ambassador had actually conveyed. Agreeing that the talks had entered into a crucial stage and emphasising that the return of five million Afghan refugees in safety and honour was a basic objective for Pakistan, the ambassador had underlined the importance of a broad-based interim government in Afghanistan.

Pakistan regarded this as an extremely important element as otherwise civil war and blood-

shed were likely to ensue in Afghanistan that would, no doubt, discourage the refugees from returning. In this sense Pakistan wanted to avoid a mess in the future. Pakistan was, therefore, urging that there should be progress towards the establishment of an interim government.

The ambassador also conveyed that Pakistan had throughout been flexible in the Afghan negotiations rather than on any specific issue.

Syed Iqbal Hussain,
Press and Cultural
Attache,
Pakistan embassy.

Air-India regrets

SIR: This refers to a letter headed "Unpardonable offence" written by A.T.Z. Ahmad (AT, March 10).

We assure Mr Ahmad that the intention of the advertisement was only to inform passengers about the flights available on our carrier to the sub-continent from Kuwait. The advertisement did not claim any direct flight to Dhaka and it clearly showed connecting flights to Dhaka by mentioning

two flight numbers. Air-India is aware of the excellent relationship and close cooperation between Bangladesh and India as both nations are active members of SAARC.

We have discontinued the publication of the advertisement and we express our regret over the airline schedule if it has adversely affected the sentiments of any Bangladeshi citizen, whom we hold in high esteem.

G. Tharakan,
Customer Relations
Manager,
Air-India, Kuwait.

Pedestrian bridge

SIR: I would like to request the Kuwait government to build a pedestrian bridge on the Airport road, particularly at the intersection opposite the Holiday Inn Hotel. This is a busy road and it has become very dangerous for pedestrians to cross the road. Several accidents, resulting in deaths, have occurred on this road.

Prabhu Mendonca,
Safat.

At wrong places

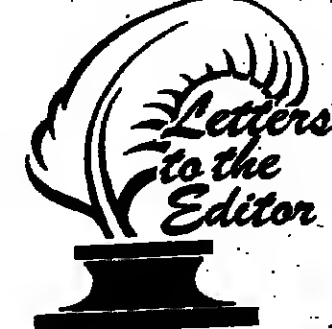
SIR: This refers to recent reports on constructing new pedestrian bridges. The existing bridges are located at the wrong places and do not cater to the needs of pedestrians. Not many people use the bridges which are merely ornamental, for example the ones located in Shaah and Istiqal Street. The bridges should have been located near the 2nd Ring Road intersection as most bachelors stay in the vicinity of the embassies and cross the street, endangering themselves and the motorists.

There is an urgent need to build a pedestrian crossing opposite the Safat Post Office, otherwise the post office should be shifted to another location.

T. K. Philip
Safat.

Health hazard

SIR: A contractor had built a toilet in an open area in Jahriya while constructing a residential block. The work has been completed but the toilet has not been removed by the contractor.



The toilet is now being used by labourers and passers-by, posing a health hazard. It has become a nuisance and a source of embarrassment to families living in the area, particularly in buildings overlooking the toilet.

Then open toilet could spread disease. I urge the authorities to take appropriate action and get rid of this nuisance.

M. A.
(Name and address supplied).

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.



A Vietnamese child looks from behind a fence at a refugee camp in Hong Kong. (Reuters wirephoto)

Galvin assesses new-look Kremlin

Soviet threat still exists

By Richard Batmforth

MONS, Belgium, (Reuters): Among the military volumes in the office of US General John Galvin, Nato supreme allied commander in Europe, is a copy of Mikhail Gorbachev's book "Perestroika" — well-thumbed and heavily annotated.

But Galvin finds nothing in the views of the reform-minded Kremlin leader to persuade him that the Soviet threat to the West has diminished.

"Where has he said 'let's not build any more Foxbats, let's cut down on the classes of submarines that we're building'? What programmes have been stopped? I don't find any," says Galvin.

"In military policy, I don't see a change that has resulted from the appearance of Gorbachev. Not to date," he said in an interview with Reuters.

"This question of (Soviet) military force to intimidate and force accommodation, I see it going on all the time," he said.

Eroda

Galvin, 56, a general map with a face as lined a military map, took over at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) last June amid anxiety in the military leadership that US arms control policies could erode nuclear defence strategy.

Galvin has no hesitation in saying that the challenge from Gorbachev, shifting East-West relations and problems within the alliance could make 1988 Nato's "most critical year."

But he is sure that Nato's doctrine of "flexible response" is the only valid one — a strategy endorsed by the March 2-3 summit of Nato leaders which dwelt on the challenge posed by Gorbachev.

That means keeping enough nuclear and non-nuclear forces to persuade Moscow that the risk far outweighs the possible gains from attack.

His conciliatory air contrasts sharply with the combative style of his predecessor, Bernard Rogers, who held the top job at

SHAPE for a record eight years and often clashed with Nato's political authorities.

But, style apart, their ideas are identical on the scale of the Soviet conventional force threat and the conviction that the nuclear weapon is the only sure guarantee against attack.

Faced with an irreversible Nato decision by his political masters, Galvin has taken a pragmatic line over the US-Soviet Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty which Rogers once said gave him "gas pains."

Galvin says he can execute his primary mission of deterring war without US medium-range nuclear missiles — though battles may lie ahead with the politicians over how to reshuffle the remaining nuclear arms and up-date them.

He likens the withdrawal of the US Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles to taking bricks out of the wall of defence and sees it as his job to rebuild the wall with what is left.

"I would like to make sure that the forces available to me ... to defend are structured in the best possible way ... what else would we expect military men to do?" he said.

Nato diplomats say Galvin's more diplomatic approach makes him an easier person to work with and more to the taste of Nato's political authorities at a time of crucial decision making.

Listeners
"He listens to advice, thinks aloud constructively. He is less imperial than Bernie," said one diplomat, speaking of his style at SHAPE.

Galvin used his diplomatic skills in his last post as commander of US forces in South America — one of the most sensitive field posts the US services offers.

His job, based in Panama, required often delicate political contacts with Latin American military leaders including Chile's Augusto Pinochet.

But he has also served 10 out of the past 15 years in Europe in various military posts — and

feels attuned to the needs and fears of the European allies.

In peace-time, Galvin commands the 320,000 or so US servicemen based in Western Europe but in his Nato role has little alliance hardware at his command and few alliance forces.

In a war he would set up headquarters in an underground bunker situated in a grassy knoll visible from his office and take command of 4.5 million men from the armies of Western Europe.

His reading of what would happen in the early stages of a conflict with the Warsaw Pact is orthodox.

He says Nato forces would "give a good account of themselves" in absorbing the thrust from the first wave of Soviet forces and holding the line.

Danger

But after 10 to 20 days, the line could be in danger of crumbling and he would have to turn to the political authorities to give the go-ahead to use nuclear weapons.

Gorbachev, he believes, has persuaded his military to go along with nuclear arms cuts by holding out the prospect of stripping Europe of its nuclear weapons and leaving Soviet conventional forces in an unassailable position.

At what point would he reassess the Soviet threat?

"If the Soviets were willing to do a deep asymmetrical reduction of their forces ... in something like parity, I would think we had a change in strategy," he said.

But even if a conventional military balance were achieved Galvin does not believe Nato should dispense with nuclear arms.

"We don't think that even when we have a parity in conventional forces, that we would have a strong enough deterrent for war ... it is still the nuclear forces that provide the deterrent for war," Galvin said.

He also stresses that Nato's existing nuclear stockpile will have to be reshuffled to take account of the INF Treaty.

By Chris Peterson

HONG KONG, (Reuters): Hong Kong's policy on Vietnamese refugees is coming under pressure from a group of legislators who want to stop the continuing flow of "boat people" from across the South China Sea.

Thirteen years after Saigon fell to the victorious North Vietnamese Army, refugees are still undertaking the hazardous journey by sea, arriving in the British colony at a rate of around 300 a month.

A number of Hong Kong legislative councillors want the colony to change its policy of being a place of first asylum, which they say encourages refugees to come here knowing they will not be sent back to Vietnam without their consent.

Rita Fan, chairman of Hong Kong's legislative council ad hoc committee on refugees, said: "After years of this policy, the problem is still with us, there is no solution in sight."

"We should tell them that they either stay here awaiting repatriation back to Vietnam, or they have a choice of continuing with food and water," she added.

Crowded

According to government figures, 9,700 Vietnamese refugees are crowded into five camps, with arrivals outstripping the relatively small number of departures for resettlement.

Nigel French, the senior civil servant in charge of the government's refugee policy, insists that the question of first asylum is basically a moral issue, not a legal one, and Hong Kong has no plans to change it.

The policy of first asylum is based on humanitarian considerations, coming from international conventions, understandings, and agreements. It is

not based on international law," he told Reuters.

"Since 1982 we have had a policy of putting arrivals into closed camps as a means of deterring more people from coming. Initially it was reasonably successful, but arrivals have increased again."

"But they are properly looked after, fed and clothed," added French.

Fan and her group see turning back refugees as the only means of solving the colony's problem, although she denied suggestions that to repatriate people forcibly, or send them back to sea would mean death or imprisonment.

Negotiate

She said the Hong Kong government should first negotiate the refugees' return with Hanoi.

Meanwhile the refugees continue the long wait, most sitting listlessly behind barbed wire in the closed camps.

Camp officials say most of the recent refugees here, the majority of them from the northern part of Vietnam, have fled the country for economic reasons.

Although at one stage in the 1970s there were 70,000 refugees waiting to be resettled, the problem is more difficult now despite the lower number.

The majority of those being held speak no second language, have no skills and no relatives in a third country who could sponsor their entry.

Hong Kong acts as a natural magnet for Vietnamese refugees because it is one of the few places in the region that does not turn them away.

Britain, which controls Hong Kong's foreign policy, refuses to take more than 20 refugees a month from its colony.

Last month Foreign Office Minister Lord Glenarthur caused an uproar by admitting

Britain had increased the overall number of refugees it was taking while refusing to make any further moves in easing the burden in Hong Kong.

Fazil Karim, head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) mission in Hong Kong, would like to see the government change its closed camp policy.

But in the interim he said the UNHCR wanted the introduction of programmes aimed at improving the lot of the 6,700 refugees being held in closed camps.

"There are a number of ideas we have put up, which are being considered by the government," he told Reuters.

"Hong Kong has a labour shortage, and it seems silly to have 6,000 or so people sitting idle in camps. They could be given work inside or out."

Training

There are also proposals to get the children from the camps into Hong Kong's education system, to help bring about a long term solution. There is also the question of vocational training as well," he added.

Karim said the UNHCR was adamantly opposed to any change in the policy of first asylum, and said Hong Kong has a moral and humanitarian obligation.

Refugee officials estimate the colony's policy has cost some 900 million Hong Kong dollars (\$115 million) to date, with current expenditure running at around 126 million Hong Kong dollars (\$16.1 million) a year.

Government statistics show that in 1987 there were 3,300 arrivals, 65 per cent increase over the previous year.

After the first two months of this year, 600 have already arrived, with only sporadic departures for resettlement.

Killers turn vigilantes

Fighting fire with fire in Punjab

By Adam Kelllher

AMRITSAR, India, (UPI): Santokh Singh, self-confessed killer of more than 50 people and former bomber and robber, relaxed on a chair in a police station, cradling a submachine gun, a revolver protruding from a cartridge belt encircling his belly.

"I shook hands with the police and they gave me shelter to take revenge," explained Singh, a stocky, bearded 29-year-old. "If we can gun down about 200 main killers, we will be able to flush out terrorism in the region."

Singh was confirming what up until now has been only speculation — that officials in India's Punjab state have recruited former Sikh extremists to fight those still waging a bloody campaign for an independent Sikh nation of "Khalistan."

Singh, who said he decided to cooperate with the police after his brother was tortured and murdered by extremists, admitted playing a role in the killings of at least 25 militants to date.

Other vigilantes, who asked not to be identified, said they turned on their former compatriots out of disillusion with the fight for "Khalistan."

"This is a war-type situation," said a senior police official on condition of anonymity in acknowledging the existence of the vigilantes.

"In war, I feel sometimes you have to take some decisions which otherwise are morally and ethically incorrect."

The new tactic, he added, was

undertaken with the knowledge of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government, which assumed control of Punjab last May, but remains totally frustrated in crushing the extremists by conventional means.

Militants still openly operate from the Golden Temple of Amritsar. Police cannot enter Sikhdom's holiest shrine without reviving memories of the June 1984 Army assault on the shrine that left more than 600 Sikhs dead and led to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

By using 50 former militants comprising the "Panthic Tiger Force" and the "Khalistan Commando Force," authorities hope to shatter the estimated 300 "hard-core" radicals, blamed for more than 1,500 murders in the past 14 months.

Most Panthic Tiger Force members are veteran cop killers, yet they are warmly accepted by security personnel when they wander through police stations brandishing weapons.

They possess certificates granting them the same powers as paramilitary troops. They are even allowed to steal cars if they return the vehicles within 10 days.

Admits

"The police supply us with money, ammunition and vehicles," said Singh, who admits killing more than 50 civilians and masterminding a bombing campaign in New Delhi while on the other side of the law.

"When we break the law, we tell a higher authority so police do not register the case," he

chuckled. "It is a mutual understanding."

Officially, authorities deny the vigilantes' existence, but endorse the idea of fighting terrorism with terror.

"If you decide as a civilian to fight against an extremist, I think it is proper for us to help you," Amritsar district police chief Mohammad Izzar Alam said, while five vigilantes waited outside his heavily guarded office for an appointment.

"We are trying to find a group of people who are willing to fight the extremists," conceded Alam.

One police official said the vigilantes were "the brainwork of a group of local officials," and began shortly after Rajiv dismissed Punjab's moderate Sikh government in May for failing to tackle the extremists.

The anti-militants' zeal to eradicate their former comrades may be sparked more by personal vendetta than a desire for bettering society. But most observers agree their use has struck the extremists' ability to strike at will.

"The government is successful in this case," said a senior member of a pro-Khalistan student group. "They have created many hurdles for the militants."

The vigilantes have their own informers within the Golden Temple. They identify many separatists by stationing themselves at roadblocks in vehicles with dark-united windows.

As a result, police say, the extremists have generally abandoned daytime actions and operate more at night.

Top stars absent from commemorative functions

Half-hearted tributes to Kishore, Smita

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

WHEN the film people come out in aid of a good cause, they often do it in such a twisted way that the purpose gets defeated and the industry gets a bad name. It is a pity that stars do this while ostensibly paying homage to those in their own field who have passed away.

A recent example was the annual "Hope" show dedicated this time to the late Kishore Kumar. Almost every popular star owes a debt to the singer for achieving public rapport through his magical playback voice. Yet, how many actually

turned up to help the show? Hardly a few. In fact the major complaint against the show was the absence of major stars, while the public had paid fabulous prices to buy the tickets. It is a blessing that they did not create any trouble. They kept expecting the stars to turn up till the very end, as Amitabh had appeared at the climax of the "Hope 86" show. But suddenly the whole thing was over.

The only gesture which showed that the programme was in the memory of Kishore Kumar, was when his widow Leena Chandavarkar, lit the inaugural lamp, and his son Amit Kumar sang his father's

songs. Apart from that there was only one hero who full-heartedly praised Kishore and that was Rajesh Khanna. He had obtained his star-status with the Aradhana songs and at the show he lamented, "It is as if I have lost my voice."

Rajesh also called R D Burman on the stage. Once again, some of the best songs of Rahul as well as that of his late father Sachin Dev Burman had been sung by Kishore. Thus R D's presence was apt. He called up Amit Kumar, saying that despite the cruelty of death the show must go on. The audience was asked to observe a half-minute's silence. Then Amit sang

Jeevan Ke Safar mein rahi, milte hain bichhad jaane ko and set the show rolling.

But where were Ashok and Anoop Kumar? Couldn't they be present to pay tribute to their own brother. Moreover, not a word was said about Smita Patil, who had died one year ago, exactly a day after the "Hope" show, where she had sent her husband Raj Babbar to take part, telling him not to worry about her. A few words of praise about Smita would have been kind on her death anniversary. But Bahbar was also not present at the show.

Another sad aspect was that Kishore's co-singers Lata and

Asha, who have sung countless songs with him over four decades, refused to attend the show. Similarly, most other important stars and composers were absent. It seems that the attendance of film folks is dictated only by the commercial rates they demand, whatever the occasion. So "Hope" of the year turned into a hopeless show, with only a few big names.

Fortunately Dilip Kumar came to grace the show and compose some items. But not Dev Anand, whose earlier youthful roles were all adorned by some of Kishore's best songs. From the stars Rajesh was supported only by Jeetendra and Rajeev Kapoor, Mandakini and Sonam. And there were the villainous "strong" character actors like Amjad Khan, Amrish Puri, Prem Chopra, Shakti Kapoor and Anupam Kher. Among composers, there were Kalyanji-Anandji, Ravindra Jain and Bappi Lahiri with his little daughter Reema who is being promoted as a singer.

Second grade

All other singers were of the second grade, like Manhar, Jayshree, Sadhna Sargam, Hemlata, Sonali, Sapna Mukherji and a boring Mahendra Kapoor. Instead of conducting the music, Bappi Lahiri obstinately kept singing in his own weird voice. His personal memories of Kishore Kumar were not appreciated by the audience. There were some cheap jokes, like Shakti Kapoor repeating his gags as Inspector Bhende from Insaaf. Devan Verma introduced Prem Chopra as the man who had raped three thousand women.



Raj Babbar remembers his wife Smita on her first death anniversary.



The film industry pays tribute to Kishore Kumar.

It was in bad taste considering the occasion. The Ram Teri dance by Mandakini and Rajeev Kapoor has now become hackneyed. Alisha Chenoy, Juhi Chawla and Kalpana Iyer also performed poorly.

Rajesh Khanna played up the old Jai Shiv Shankar songs as an indirect publicity for his own coming film. Often, the audience would get bored and boo many actors and singers, including Jeetendra. The shouts to call Amitabh proved futile as he was just not there. Amjad Khan who was also on the organising side wined up the show by confession that it was not such a good programme and he regretted that the big stars did not turn up.

Since the "Hope" show is now going to be an annual feature every year-end, it's better if the industry plans it in future. On this occasion Yash Chopra was entrusted with managing the whole affair, and

he in turn gave it over to Pride India, which had it sponsored by the Bush company. The industry was given twenty lakh rupees as total cost and nobody knows what profits the others made. They did not offer enough incentive to catch the big stars. And sadly Kishore's memory was not enough to bring them. In any case, the workers of the industry for whose benefit the shows are held, have not gained anything from all these lakhs of rupees.

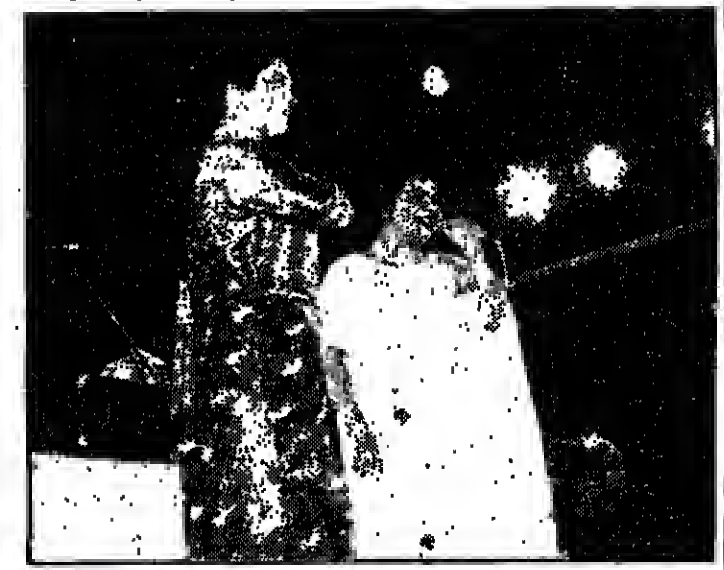
This has led to in-fighting with everyone wanting a big slice of the cake in advance. In fact, Raj Babbar is reported to have stayed away because he wanted the whole limelight by putting the show in Smita Patil's name.

Another function supposedly paying homage to Smita Patil was badly messed up. It was an anniversary/condolence meeting with Bahbar as well as Smita's parents in the limelight. The occasion was used to play up photos of Smita's little son Pratik in the magazines. Actually it was to be his first birthday celebration. But luckily good sense prevailed and the fact that Smita had died only a year ago ensured that a homage was first priority over any festivity.

Among those who came to the crowded hall were stars like Poonam, Rohini, Akhar Khan, Shammi Kapoor and Mohan Choti but none of the big heroes. Of the producers, there were Shyam Benegal, Prakash Mehra, B R Chopra and some others. The organisation was pathetic. The programme began with a group wearing odd red outfits, as if they were singing a qawwali and not devotional songs. A special song composed for Smita was also sung.

Weep

Some speakers including politicians pretended to weep on the stage. Bahbar had a soulful expression throughout. But he constantly referred to her as "Smitaji" and never as his wife, Mrs Bahbar. Producers did not know what to say on the stage. Some organisation at once set up a Pratik Foundation and declared an acting award every year in memory of Smita. The biggest blunder was made by a flashily dressed Poonam. After speaking a little on Smita, she suddenly began praising B R Chopra and Prakash Mehra, as those who had turned Amitabh into a star. Perhaps, Poonam was advancing her own career using Smita as an excuse.



Mandakini dances to the same old tune from Ram Teri Ganga Maili.

'Sati' is a four-letter word for censors

FIRST Ivory-Merchants' The Deceivers, shot in Jaipur, got into trouble for allegedly depicting sati in a glorified fashion. Now Gautam Ghosh, the latest "new wave" darling of West Bengal, has tripped with his Shatrughan Sinha art film, Mahayatra.

And for what? Glorifying sati! Now, that sounds like plain stupidity. If anything, Gautam Ghosh can be accused of glorifying Shatrughan Sinha, but sati is a different four-letter word.

The NFDC bilingual — "Antarjali Jatra in Bengali" — in its closing shows, shows the 16-year-old Jashobati (who has been married to an 80-year-old fossil, literally on his death bed) jumping into the raging waters of the mighty river near the cremation grounds, and rising from the foam like a Durga.

This scene, it seems, got the goat of three of the five Censor Board officials, watching a special screening of the film in Calcutta.

They felt it was glorification of the inhuman Hindu ritual of sati. With Roop Kanwar and maybe The Deceivers haunting their minds, the officials, like the capitalists, must be seeing a red under every bed!

Gautam Ghosh himself felt that they were merely passing the buck to the Revising Committee not wanting to take any decision either way themselves.

Damage

For Gautam Ghosh, censor trouble is nothing new. His first documentary, Hungry Antenna had also got entangled with half-baked censorial logic and almost immediately after, passed by the Revising Committee.

Likewise, it took only a few days for Mahayatra to get cleared by the Revising Committee. The net result of it all was that the censor officials stood out like so many Big Mooses while trying to watch things like Big Brothers. And Mahayatra, if at all it needed a

shot in the box-office arm, got it nice and proper. Like Gautam's Paar, this one too is headed for a big draw.

The real damage done to the film and film maker was by riding a hole in the international award's boat. Gautam had been invited by the organisers of the Berlin film festival to enter his film, and they had been kind enough to extend their deadline by a month to accommodate Mahayatra. But for the meddling by the censor officials, Mahayatra would have been in Berlin by now.

Said Gautam: "The mindless ignorance of these officials is incredible. They just didn't see the film." He explained that the girl doesn't merely let herself drown; she cries for help and the chandaa (played by Shatrughan) at the burning ghat tries to save her. But he fails. "It is not as if Jashobati commits sati. She doesn't want to."

We were with Gautam for a

few days in May last year when he was shooting the film at Sagar Island, off Calcutta, and nothing could be more obvious about the story and intentions of the film maker. Gautam's previous films should be proof enough of where his sympathies lie.

Novel

And Mahayatra is a categorical statement against the inhuman practice as it was in the nineteenth century. Not stopping at that, Gautam has spoken at length in interviews about his assault on Sati. One of his statements published in The Telegraph referred to society never really changing. If there was Sati in the nineteenth century, he told this correspondent, there is the stove burning bright in the twentieth century. Does that sound like a man out to glorify sati?

Mahayatra is based on a novel (Antarjali Jatra) by the famous author, the late Kamal

Kumar Majumdar, who was known to be an iconoclast. And a progressive author like Sunil Gangopadhyay has collaborated with Gautam on the dialogue and script. These should be credentials enough, if Gautam's own past record isn't. Gautam has also specifically set the film after 1829, the year the practice of sati was banned by the British. And this, he feels, should confirm that the film has nothing to glorify about sati.

The story centres around a cremation ground where a noble girl, not yet a major, is being married off to a doddering old man who has one leg in the pyre. Quite dramatically, the nuptial and funeral rites run almost parallel. An acid-tongued chandaa revolts against this barbaric act. His diatribe against the practitioners of the ritual is corrosive enough to burn holes in your seat.

The girl vacillates between succumbing to all-pervasive societal pressures (which even condition her mind to a large extent) and her natural fear of fire and burning herself to death. The chandaa gets hysterical, he strongly urges her to run away. As the girl sits undecided beside her husband's pyre on the bank of the river, a huge wave washes away the husband's corpse. Instinctively, the girl jumps into the raging waters to rescue the body, but in vain. When Jashobati herself realises the dangers she is in, it's too late. She cries out to the chandaa for help, he shouts that she should hold on to a wooden frame he has thrown in her direction. Before he can pull her ashore, however, she is swept away.

With the censors' attitude being what it is, one wonders what will be the fate of Aparna Sen's film (also by NFDC). Not just titled sati, it actually shows Shabana Azmi going up in flames.

Courtesy: Filmfare



Shampa Ghosh in Mahayatra.

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Behind the Screen

Film people have no long-lasting attachments. Actor Ranjeet used to say that he was terribly fond of Kis Ke Liye as the title and theme of his own film, starring Vinod Khanna, Farha, Kimi. But since distributors did not like it he has promptly changed the name to Karnama.

Producer Tahir Hussain's son Amir Khan has been made a hero. Tahir's brother Nasir Hussain's son Mansoor Khan has been turned into a director. Both get their chance in Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak made by the Hussain brothers. The film even carries a symbolic song: *Papa Kahate hain bada naam karega*. As some unsuccessful young actors say: "Fathers are any day better than godfathers."

A famous character actor charged ten thousand rupees to a producer without doing a single scene for the film. That was the price for just his photo to appear on the wall throughout the film. Could he not have given it free? The actor says: "Though it is a dumb image on the wall, it is an important character in the whole story."

Raakesh Roshan's decision to go bald on the head has led to much speculation. Is he trying to be like his brother, composer Rajesh Roshan? No. Does he want to show that he no longer wants to be a wig-wearing actor but a tough director? No again. The acting itch has not died. He wants to become a top villain on the lines of baldies Amrish Puri and Anupam Kher.

Jaya Bachchan as story writer of *Shahenshah* was clearly an after-thought. It had never been declared as said before. But there were so many rumours that the story was a copy of *Death Wish* that the



Raakesh Roshan: cultivating a tough image

producers began to make a frantic search for a story writer. Jaya was not even given time to agree on lending her name. The super star himself thought that her name would lend respectability to the show. But since it backfired, people are asking: Is this what Jaya has been doing sitting in her lovely Swiss apartment?

Raj Babbar is being blamed for many things. One is his statement that it is better to work in films from Madras rather than Bombay, as work there is fast and money is prompt. But the Bombay producers say that Babbar is talking like this because he has no films here. He is not being signed as he speaks his dialogue slowly and haltingly. Can it be because he cannot remember his lines?



By Keith Wells

I CALLED my friend Wizr the other day.

"Hello," said this sexy voice. "Mr Wizr's secretary speaking, can I help you?"

"Yes. This is Mr Keith, I'd like to speak to Wizr please."

"One moment. I'll just see if he's in," she said, then the phone played Beethoven's 9th symphony (in full) before Wizr came on the line.

"Hi Mr Keith, how's things?"

"Fine, Wizr, where are you?"

"I'm in my car, on the Third Ring road."

"In the car? But who answered?"

"That's Fluzi, my secretary, she works the telephone exchange as well, hang on Mr Keith, I've got a call on another line, please hold."

Beethoven came back for a few moments, before Wizr's voice said, "Sorry Mr Keith, very important call, the guy in the Nissan Skyline just ahead of me called to tell me the traffic light had changed to green. Hang on, I've just got to call the guy behind me and let him know the news."

Beethoven's encore came on again, then Wizr said, "Mr Keith, can I call you back, there's fifteen cars all behind me, so I've got lots of calls to make, Bye!"

He hung up. The next day I went to see him, and there he was sitting in the front seat of his car, with Fluzi working the switchboard in the back seat.

"I'm just going to call my friend Ali," Wizr said. He drives a Porsche and I must know how fast

Wizr phone

After a long absence, Wizr, king of the road returns to the local scene

he's going. He dialled the number, listened for a few minutes, gave his own number, then hung up.

"He's not answering," said Wizr, "I got through to his answering machine, he must be chatting up his girlfriend on the other line."

"You mean people have answering machines on their car telephones?" I asked.

"Sure," said Wizr, "swerving neatly so as not to miss a rash pedestrian, who ended up with a bit more than a rash as a result."

"Is very important to have answer machine if you're busy on another line, or maybe not in the car because you have to go into office to get mail. Big problem in Kuwait, they don't deliver mail to the car yet, is very difficult for us."

"But how could they deliver mail to your car, they wouldn't know where you were?"

"Don't be silly, Mr Keith, of course they know, just call us on the telephone. I don't think DHL is even trying to solve this problem."

The phone rang, Fluzi answered it, then put the call through to Wizr who listened for a few moments then had a rapid conversation in Arabic before hanging up.

"That was my car cleaner," he said confidentially. "He was ringing from car he just wash to ask me when I want this car cleaned. I tell him, tomorrow, inshallah."

"Don't you think this car phone business has gotten out of hand, Wizr?" I said tactfully.

"Mr Keith! How can you say such a thing? Without car phones Kuwait will come to a standstill! Think, Mr Keith, no car phones means no romance, no marriage, no children... after two years, maybe less, the country will finish."

Stubborn

"I don't understand, what do you mean, no children?"

"Ah Mr Keith, have you no heart? Think about it. With car phone you can call your girlfriend, she can call you, you can make big romance, decide to marry, have babies, everything."

He was interrupted again by Fluzi saying, "Excuse me, Mr Wizr, is Fatima on line four."

Wizr took the phone, jinked up over the pavement to avoid a bulldozer then began a passionate conversation in breathy Arabic. Finally, he put the phone down with a sigh. "Beautiful," he murmured. "Beautiful, very, very beautiful."

"Who, Fatima?" I asked.

"No, her car, she has red Jaguar, very fast, 4.2 litre engine, electronic fuel injection, double overhead cam shaft, three PABX switchboard, and two answer machines. Beautiful."

I didn't know what to say, particularly since a stubborn pedestrian we'd picked up somewhere insisted on clutching hold of the front bonnet and was refusing to let go, until Wizr shook him off against a lamp-post, dialling an overseas call at the same time.

"Hello, is that Riyadh 765 4321? Hello baby, this is Wizr from Kuwait. How you doing? 140 kph! That's marvellous, I'm only 120, how are things? Is there much traffic on the road?"

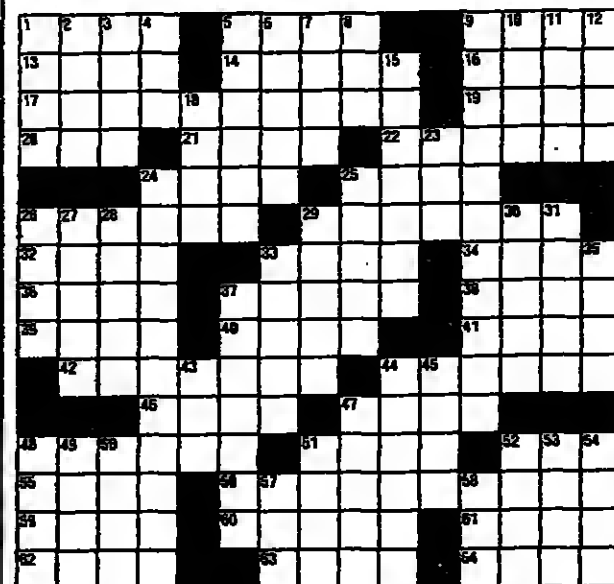
By the time he'd finished we knew everything about traffic conditions in the Saudi capital. I tried to suggest that perhaps this was a bit of a waste of time and money, but Wizr would have none of it.

"Nonsense Mr Keith," he said, "Is modern technology. You have to keep up with the times, yes?"

Then the other phone went and Wizr picked it up, and roared on down the road talking into two phones, steering with his knees and changing gears with his elbow while chatting up two girls at once. I was very impressed. We had a few knocks and humps of course, but Wizr managed to carry on juggling both phones, and both conversations without missing a beat.

"You know what I really need in this car?" he said afterwards. "A television. It's too boring to drive with nothing to look at."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Coarse file
 - 5 Bistro
 - 9 Cultivated
 - 13 — brave
 - 14 Playwright's device
 - 16 Thomas — Edison
 - 17 Sweetheart
 - 19 Den
 - 20 Stitch
 - 21 Appear
 - 22 Perplex
 - 24 Convertibles, e.g.
 - 25 Engrave
 - 26 Flag
 - 28 Must have keypad
 - 32 City on the Oka
 - 33 Did a blacksmith's job
 - 34 Wimbledon winners
 - 36 Old-fashioned oath
 - 37 Obscure
 - 38 Measure
 - 39 Scamper
 - 40 Rose or Ruzella
 - 41 Hurry along
 - 42 Compass
 - 43 Indicators
 - 44 Smartens up
 - 46 Art course; Abbr.
 - 47 Bill stamp
 - 48 Crown of a sort
 - 51 Frigate feature
 - 52 Pindar offering
 - 55 Check copy
- DOWN
- 1 Cheers
 - 2 Toward shelter
 - 3 Cabbage salad
 - 4 Average
 - 5 Provides food
 - 6 Cinders
 - 7 Unwavering
 - 8 Tokyo, formerly
 - 9 Lukewarm
 - 10 Norwegian saint
 - 11 Wicked
 - 12 Ventura
 - 15 Period of decline
 - 18 Romanov title
 - 23 Performance
 - 24 Unfeeling
 - 25 Wear away
 - 26 Student
 - 27 Church
 - 28 Instrument
 - 29 Legal document
 - 30 " — all, folks"
 - 31 Grand — National Park, Wyoming
 - 33 White sale purchase
 - 35 Cliquas
 - 37 Gitzzy
- 43 Biological initials
- 44 Trattoria offerings
 - 45 Hayworth of the movies
 - 47 Components
 - 48 Gymnasts' alms
 - 49 Popular hero
 - 50 Assistant
 - 51 Anagram for Elam
 - 52 Buckeye State
 - 53 Actor Bruce
 - 54 Being: Lat.
 - 57 Have lunch
 - 58 Garfield, e.g.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ J 6 5 2

♥ Q 7 4

♦ A 9 5

♣ A 7 3

WEST

♠ 9

♥ 8 6 3

♦ J 10 8 4

♣ Q 10 9 8 2

EAST

♠ Q 10 8

♥ J 9 5 2

♦ Q 6 3 2

♣ J 4

SOUTH

♠ A K 7 4 3

♥ A K 10

♦ K 7

♣ K 6 5

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

If the average player has a major fault, it is that he is all too ready to concede defeat. Don't lower the flag until you have exhausted all chances to make your contract.

Six spades was a good contract. It would be cold if the queen of trumps dropped either donkleton or singleton and, as South proved, there were other chances, albeit slim, even if her majesty did not appear.

West led a diamond, and declarer soon knew he had a steep hill to climb. He won in hand and cashed the ace-king of spades to learn that he had a trump loser. Many a player

would now have thrown in the towel. But was there a way to avoid losing a club trick?

Declarer worked out that he could still bring home his contract if East held specifically a doubleton club and a suitable holding in the red suits. After cashing his three heart winners and the ace-king of clubs, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in his hand to complete the groundwork for an endplay. He then exited with a trump.

The lie of cards was the answer to a bridge player's prayers. In with the queen of spades, East was forced to lead a red card. Declarer could ruff in either hand while discarding his club loser from the other, so he lost only a trump trick.

True, declarer was most fortunate to find a distribution that enabled him to make his slam. But credit him with the technique to make good fortune pay off.

Answer to previous puzzle:

DEER PITCHI ESNE
ATIER ERRED ETAL
MONA ROUNDELAYS
ROUNDOBIN
ABR SKVEY ANDES
FRANCE ENGAGE
COCOA AGOG RBT
MERRYGROUNDS
PIC EAVE ROSAS
ADDRESS SIMONE
HEURT ISSUE FOR
ROUNDTABLE
MISANTHROPY VALE
EREI SERGE IOEA
RAISE AISSET LEAR

"I found eight times of it that said it has to be eaten by today's date."

"You certainly project yourself well, Miss Simms."

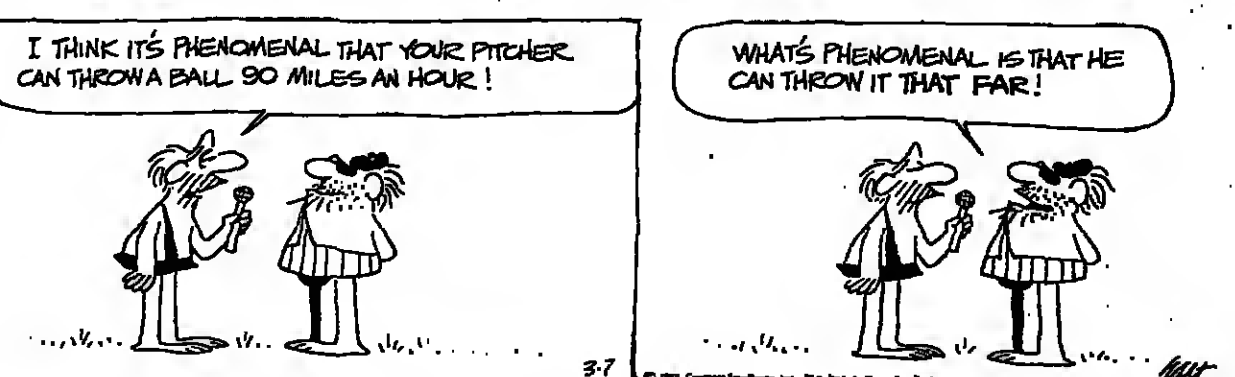
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)
- You will be able to help a friend who is having a difficult time. You should not expect to have everything your own way. Try to think a little more positively. Be reliable.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
- Avoid imposing on others. Do all you can to stop creating confusion. Read the instructions carefully before using a new gadget. Be reasonable.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
- You will know what is the right thing to do to the circumstances. You must do a little more to maintain harmony with your partner. Avoid placing too much reliance on pills and patent medicines. Be considerate.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)
- Something you started a little while ago will now begin to show good results. You should listen to what others are saying, but you should also listen to the voice of your conscience. Do not take any undue risks just now. Be tactful.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
- You will be able to draw the right conclusions. You should leave yourself a little more room for manoeuvre. Do not underestimate the difficulties. Be polite.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
- You will not be able to rely on your intuitive powers just now. Make sure you get all the rest you need. Ensure you turn all switches off. Be sincere.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
- You should make sure you do not spend money you do not have. Try to exercise a little more self-control and do not allow others to pull the wool over your eyes. Leave yourself with enough time for your personal affairs. Be observant.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
- This is not a good time to do anything unconventional or risky. You should not allow anyone to tread upon your toes, nor should you do so to anyone else. Live and let live is the best policy at this moment too. Be a little more patient.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
- You are liable to be blamed for something that is not at all your fault. You should make sure you do not get in anyone's way. Avoid having a too late night. Be benevolent.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
- You should not always look on the negative side of things. There is no good reason for excessive pessimism, but nor should you be unduly optimistic. Listen carefully to what others are saying. Be fair.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
- You should not think you are the only one who is right, whilst everyone else is wrong. If you are not quite sure think again and do not act on impulse. Try to avoid getting into an argument. Be constructive.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
- You should do your best to avoid getting into an argument. You will be able to make amends for something you have omitted to do. Make sure you do not eat so much that you put on weight. Be responsive.

THE Art Buchwald Column

Tough school

THERE is "tough love" and then there is "tough media."

"Tough media" came out of the television business when TV interviewers discovered it was more profitable to rough up their guests than treat them with kindness.

Marco Polo, a local anchorman, told me why "tough media" is now the rule of broadcasting rather than the exception.

"If you treat the person you're interviewing with politeness everyone will think you're rolling over for him like a pet dog. People want to see their politicians pinned to the wall, particularly during an election year."

"How do you do that?"

"You ask the tough questions such as, 'Senator, have you ever committed adultery?'"

"What if he says no?"

"Then you ask, 'Has your church minister ever committed adultery?'"

"That could be a hard one," I admitted.

"You have to let your subject know who is in charge on your show. Let's say you ask him, 'How do you feel about the Panama Canal?' and he replies,

'Lousy.' Then it's your turn to zero in on him and say, 'You didn't say that in Des Moines during the debate. In Des Moines you said, and I quote, "I'm sick of the Panama Canal." Now which is it — lousy or sick? And then he replies, 'Some days I feel lousy about the canal and other days I feel sick about it.'"

"Either way, you've got him," I said.

"Sometimes I'll get a long-winded candidate who wants to talk about the deficit when I want to talk about his wife's charge account at Lord and Taylor. As soon as he brings up the deficit I warn him he only has 10 seconds to explain it and then we're going to a commercial. This usually gets him so nervous he forgets what he was talking about."

"That is tough."

"TV was not invented for explaining deficits. My job is to give the programme a flow. That's why my questions are never too

profound. I'm thinking of the little guy sitting in his lounge drinking a wine cooler who couldn't care less who starts World War III. He wants to know if the next man in the White House is going to stop the planes flying over his house."

"Who are your best guests?"

"I like to book TV evangelicals on the show. They are really good because they come up with stuff no one else dreams of. They know about Soviet missiles in Cuba, hostages in Lebanon and Jimmy Swaggart's battle with the devil in New Orleans. The audiences eat it up."

"So you never shut one of them off?"

"Not as long as he has a beer barrel rolling around in his head. You have to understand what tough television is all about. It first started with Ted Koppel, who told his guests he didn't understand what they were talking about."



Then the network anchormen picked it up, followed by Sam Donaldson, followed by local anchormen and women. Women are still softer on their subjects out of respect to Barbara Walters, who never talks tough because she is a lady. But we, TV interviewers are not going to be pushed around by anybody because they're our cameras and we paid for them."

"Do you get as much out of the interview if you're tough?"

"No, but my subject does. The printed press portrays me as a first-class stinker."

"Does this bother you?"

"I'd rather go to a black screen for eight minutes than toss someone a softball question."

1988, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



Dear Junior Readers,

It has been a busy week for you at school, and I'm sure you are looking forward to a relaxing weekend.

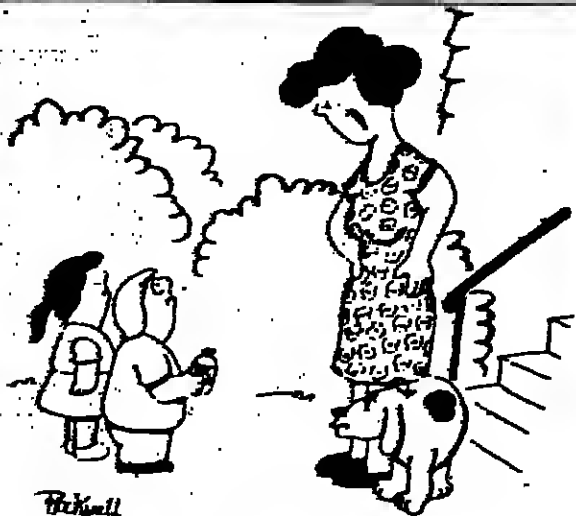
Weekends are a good time to refresh yourself after a week of studying. It is fun to sleep in, have a leisurely breakfast and enjoy some sports with friends without thinking about school.

If you have done your homework on Wednesday night, you have the rest of the weekend free to do the things that you like to do. Have a good weekend.

Amal Barakat

Happy birthday

Zahab Patel celebrates his 4th birthday on Friday, March 18. Best wishes, Zahab, from your family and friends.



Dick! Jane! What are you doing with the spot remover?

ONCE there were three brothers. The oldest brother was Big-Arm. He was known for his strength. The youngest brother was Big-Heart. He was known for his kindness. But the middle brother was known for his bragging tongue. And everyone called him Big-Mouth.

Whenever that bragging middle brother, Big-Mouth, told about anything he saw, it became the biggest (or the smallest), the ugliest (or the prettiest), the best (or the worst) ever. Every April shower was a cloudburst. Every hill was a mountain. Every milkmaid was a princess. Every spider was a tarantula.

Every pony was a stallion (and wild, at that). And Big-Mouth himself was the bravest, cleverest young man in the whole countryside — according to Big-Mouth.

And oh, the stories Big-Mouth told — not only of the things he had done yesterday or a week ago Tuesday, but of the things he was going to do tomorrow, or next week, or whenever he had the chance!

Some day, Big-Mouth said, he would capture a unicorn and bring it back alive. Of course nobody in the village had ever seen a unicorn. Several people said there was no such thing. But Big-Mouth said, "Well, if there is a unicorn, I will get him. Wait and see!"

Some day, Big-Mouth said, he would travel to Mountain of Gold and bring home enough treasure to make everyone

How Big-Mouth wrestled the giant

in the village rich forever. "What Mountain of Gold?" asked the school-teacher. But Big-Mouth said, "Well, if there is a Mountain of Gold, I'll bring half of it home. Wait and see!"

And some day, Big-Mouth said, he would fight the giant who lived in the Wrestling Wood and make him cry for mercy. "If there is a giant," he said, "I'll send him running for cover. Wait and see!"

But there was a giant, that's the truth of it. He was not the largest giant in the world. And he wasn't the strongest. He wasn't even the stupidest — not quite. He was just a middle giant — middling strong, middling stupid, and unpleasant enough. You

wouldn't want to meet him, at any rate. Even a middling giant is still a giant, after all.

Of course it happened that Big-Mouth had to go through the Wrestling Wood one day. If he hadn't had to go, there'd be no story.

And of course he met the giant. If he hadn't met him, the story wouldn't be worth telling. What use is a giant story in which nobody meets the giant?

Still, nobody had met this giant for a long time. He was supposed to stay in the woods and wrestle whoever came through — it was his job.

But whenever he was sitting on the east side of the wood, people kept going through on the west side.

And whenever people passed through the east side of the wood, the giant would be sitting on the west side, twiddling his thumbs and becoming more unpleasant by the hour. He had even taken to wrestling trees, and had laid quite a number of them flat on the ground around him.

Now along came Big-Mouth through the Wrestling Wood, talking as he came. For Big-Mouth's tongue was not only bragging, it was also never still. No matter what happened to him, his tongue kept right on wagging. And the brags kept right on spilling out. He simply could not shut up.

"If I meet the giant," he said, "I'll wrestle him, I will. If there is a giant, that is."

"Halt!" said the giant. "Of course you can't believe everything you hear," said Big-Mouth. "Some people make up the silliest stories about giants and dragons and —"

"HALT!" cried the giant. Big-Mouth took one look and jumped into the pile of uprooted trees that lay at the side of the path.

"Oh, afraid, are you?" roared the giant. "Afraid?" cried Big-Mouth. "I should say no! I'm — I'm — I'm just hunting for the biggest tree to hit you with!"

The giant blinked his eyes. What kind of fellow was this, anyway? He reached in and dragged Big-Mouth out into the open by his shirt-tail.

"Let's wrestle!" bellowed the giant.

Poor Big-Mouth! Struggling in the giant's grasp, he began to sweat. His eyes began to bulge, and his teeth chattered with fright. He opened his mouth. Was he going to yell for help?

"You — you'd better watch out, you!" he said.

"Watch out?" roared the giant. "Why, look at you, you are so frightened you're covered with sweat! Any minute now and you'll be begging for mercy!"

There was nothing Big-Mouth wanted more than mercy. But alas, his bragging tongue just wouldn't say the word.

"I'm — not sweating," he said. "I'm g-g-greasing myself — so you won't be

able to hang on to me!" The giant almost lost him at that, for he was slippery. "Well then," snarled the giant tightening his grip. "Why are your eyes bulging like that? Any minute now and you're going to beg me to let go so you can breathe again!"

"Oh no I won't!" squeaked Big-Mouth with what little breath he had. "My eyes are bulging because I'm — I'm looking around for a g-g-good p-place to throw you!"

This was almost too much. With a bellow of rage, the giant held Big-Mouth up right in front of his ugly face.

"Well, in that case," he roared, "tell me why your teeth are chattering. Just tell me that!"

With such a close view of the giant's teeth, poor Big-Mouth nearly fainted dead away. But nothing, not even that, could stop his bragging tongue.

"M-my teeth aren't chattering!" he cried. "I'm — I'm sh-sh-sharpening them to bite off your n-n-nose!"

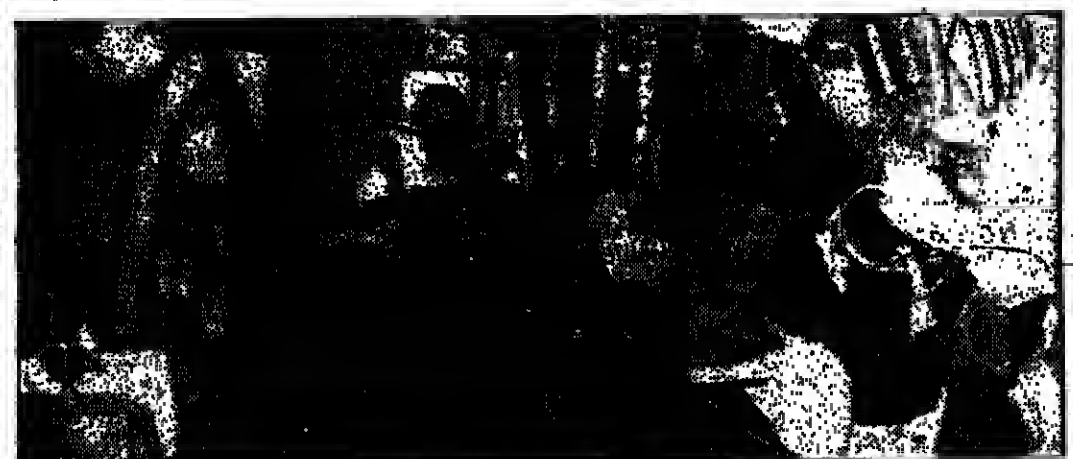
And at that the giant clapped his hand over his nose, dropped Big-Mouth to the ground and ran away deep into the woods. He was never heard from again.

But in case you think this shows that bragging is a good idea, let me tell you the rest.

When Big-Mouth returned home, nobody in the whole village believed him — not even his brother Big-Heart, although he was kind enough to tell me the story.



Schools in the news



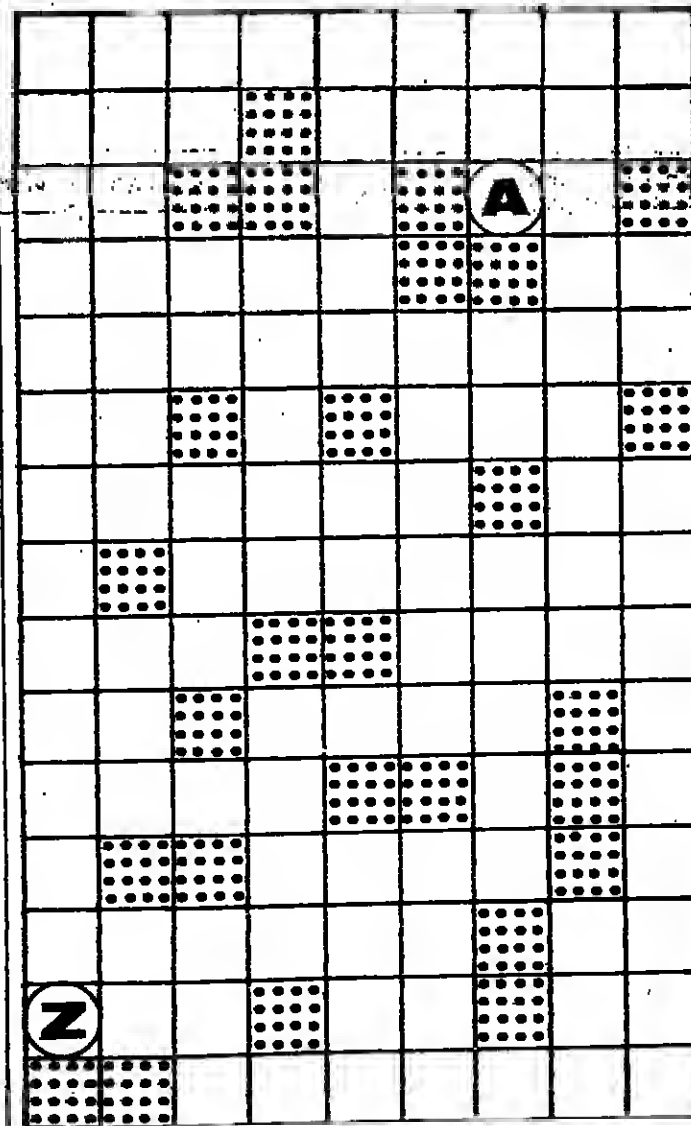
Universal American School celebrates Ethnic Day with a number of booths displaying items characteristic of various countries.



Gulf English School juniors enjoy Sports Day at Yarmouk stadium yesterday.

The A to Z

Can you find a way from A to Z passing through all the white squares once only, without travelling diagonally?



Apricot baskets

Ingredients

To make 10-12
1/2 the basic recipe for the all-in-one or creamed mixture (pages 28 or 30) 400 g (lb) tin apricot halves
1 packet orange Quick-Jel
Angelica strips
Butter icing or fresh cream

Equipment

As for cake mixtures
10-12 cake cases
Small pan

1. Follow the method for the basic mixture and divide between the paper cake cases.
2. Bake for 15 minutes (Gas Mark 5, electricity 375 °F/190 °C) and when cool, level off the tops if necessary.
3. Make up a glaze following the instructions on the packet of Quick-Jel.
4. Dip each apricot in the

Let's cook



glaze and place one on top of each cake. Pipe cream round the edge of each cake.

5. Cut a thin strip of angelica to form each handle. Serve.



Magic tricks

The double envelope

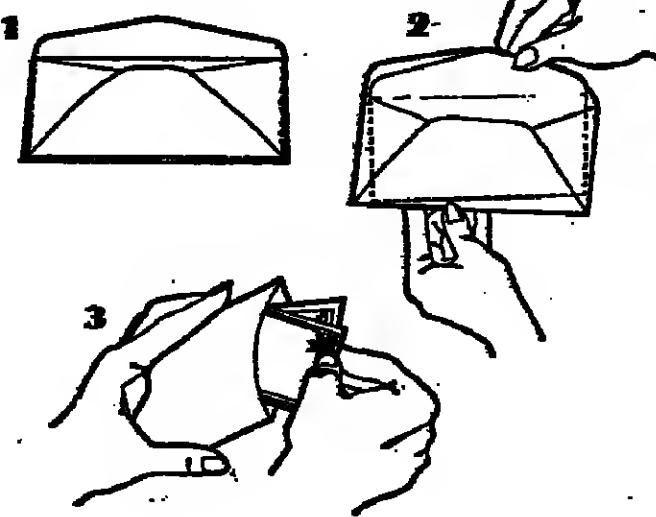
The illusion: On a piece of paper you write the words: "One dollar" or "Happy Birthday" or (shall we say) "The 3 of Hearts." Seal it in an otherwise empty envelope. When the envelope is cut open, you reach in and pull out an actual one-dollar bill, a birthday card, or the 3 of Hearts itself!

The preparation: Take two identical envelopes and set one aside. Hold the second one so you're looking at the flap-side. On the bottom edge make a small mark about 1/32" in from each side. With a razor blade cut on a straight line, at a slight angle, from each mark to the crease of the flap at each end of the envelope. Now cut 1/32" off the bottom of the envelope (1). Discard the back of the envelope and carefully slide the face-and-flap piece inside your second envelope (2). Open the envelope itself, run a thin line of glue, about 1/4" wide, inside the right end. Slide the dollar bill (or card) down between the two flaps, lick the glue on the flap of the real envelope and stick it to the flap of the insert. Now close both flaps together and set the envelope under a book until the glues have dried.

As a precaution, seal shut a third, identical envelope, cut off 1/8" of the right end, and conceal this envelope in your pocket, purse, or a drawer.

The trick:

Write whatever you wish on a piece of paper, drop the paper into the envelope, showing the empty interior as you do so, and seal the envelope shut. Tap the envelope with a pair of scissors. Cut off 1/8" from the right end (the end where you put the line of glue) and open the end of the envelope. Because of the glue, only one of the two compartments will open — the one containing whatever you had previously put in it. (3) Reach in, pull out the object, and give it to someone. Casually put the envelope in your pocket or purse, and go on to another trick. In case your audience asks to see the envelope, give them the unprepared one, but if they don't ask, don't offer!

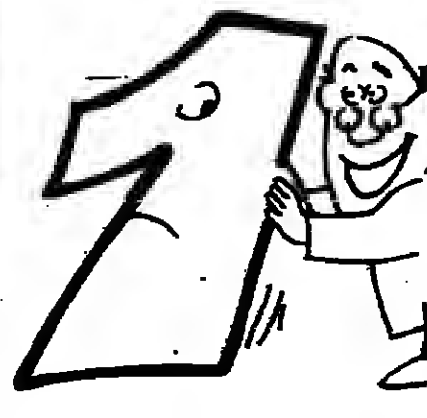


Mind jogger

Which two-figure number in a horizontal row must be taken out to make the addition sum correct?

4	1
2	3
6	5
5	4
7	6
3	2

2	3	7
---	---	---



Seven Sees

Can you find a route from A to B, only passing through adjacent squares which are multiples of 7?

A	15	28	27	17	25	18	27	13
22	7	13	35	23	50	48	16	17
21	27	19	72	77	26	55	23	49
12	9	18	12	60	14	57	31	34
17	47	52	42	15	44	49	53	54
21	22	35	51	61	23	20	28	19
69	56	71	82	21	46	70	36	72
32	17	47	58	45	14	43	67	41
14	57	63	73	19	69	63	56	B

'Isles of perpetual June'

A hot idea in sunny vacations: the Bahamas

The Bahamas, island by island

THE dazzling emerald islands of the Bahamas — with their turquoise seas and white sand beaches, their secluded seaside cottages and glamorous resort palaces, their easy-going yet elegant vacation lifestyle — are indeed America's South Sea Islands.

The Bahamas are also an international shopping — those who want to dive among brilliant living reefs, golf on 18-hole championship courses, or gamble day and night in glittering casinos. All of this, plus their proximity to the United States, make the Bahamas Islands the most popular destination in the Caribbean area.

Vacation options in the Bahamas range from the historic charm of Nassau, the glitter and excitement of Paradise Island or the resort and sporting atmosphere of Grand Bahama Island to any one of the more removed Family Islands — over a dozen Out Islands and countless cays each with few small settlements, empty beaches, and unsurpassed fishing, diving, yachting, and more.

There are three distinct vacation worlds to explore among the islands of the Bahamas, each different and appealing. The best known and most popular is Nassau and Paradise Island, which combines the colonial charm and historic landmarks of the centuries-old capital city of Nassau with the excitement and sophistication of world-famous resorts and casinos on Paradise Island and along beautiful Cable Beach, just minutes away.

The second world of Bahamas vacations is Grand Bahama Island, with the newly developed resort centers of Freeport and suburban Lucaya, which offer a country-club vacation lifestyle with half a dozen superb 18-hole championship golf courses; UNEXSO, an internationally famous scuba-diving school; elegant hotels and casinos that rival the best of Nassau and Paradise Island; miles of beautiful beaches; and round-the-world bargains in the colourful International Bazaar.

The third world of vacation pleasures offered in the Bahamas is officially called the Family Islands. They encompass all the other islands in the Bahamas chain, and have been known to generations of visitors and Bahamians as the Out Islands — "out from the glamour of Nassau and Freeport, but every much 'in' with sophisticated travellers. The Family Islands are favourite holiday hideaways for international celebrities, the wealthy, the titled and the famous, and a mecca for serious yachtsmen, fishermen and divers.

There are more than twenty lovely Family Islands to choose from, some large and some small, some just fifty to one hundred miles off Florida's shores, others more than 350 miles from the capital city of Nassau. Whichever island you choose, you'll find the Family Islands — endles, nearly empty beaches to

The seven hundred emerald gems in the island chain known as the Bahamas are bordered by powder-soft, white-sand beaches; lined with whispering casuarinas and swaying palms; and fringed by living coral reefs. They stretch in a long, languid arc from Florida to the Caribbean Sea, surrounded by a palette of blue and green waters of unbelievable clarity and indescribable beauty. An astronaut soaring more than a hundred miles above them said they were 'like nothing else on earth ... a ribbon of turquoise lost in the midnight blue of the world's oceans.'

room, crystal-clear waters to swim and snorkel, colourful coral reefs to dive, fine fishing and good sailing, with a relaxed, uncomplicated lifestyle ideal for "getting away from it all."

IN the Bahamas there are just two seasons. Winter season is the high season, when hotel rates, airfares, and charter packages are at their peak. The winter season begins in mid-December, usually a week before Christmas, and extends through April or the week after Easter. The second season is known as Goombay Summer in the Bahamas, and it lasts all of the rest of the year from the week after Easter to mid-December.

Winter season attracts many wealthy visitors from around the world. It also attracts hundreds of thousands of ordinary Americans and Canadians eager to escape the freezing cold and blizzards of northern climes. The weather in winter months is almost ideal, ranging from 70 to 80 degrees F, with a sea temperature of 70-75 degrees, some seven hours of bright sunshine daily, and almost no rain. However, an occasional "Norther" can move in, usually the last vestiges of a severe winter blizzard in the north, and skies can cloud over for a day or two and temperatures drop into the low 50s.

During the winter season vacation lifestyles tend to be slightly more formal than during the summer. There are gala charity balls, local theatre productions, and name entertainers at famous nightclubs. Most of the fine restaurants, lounges, casinos, and nightclubs require a jacket and tie for men, and women usually dress in long skirts, cocktail dresses, or elegant pantsuits. Rarely, however, are evening gowns and black tie appropriate.

In general, during winter season, hotels and resorts enjoy the highest occupancy levels of the year, and prices are somewhat higher across the board for everything from restaurant meals to city tours, from green fees to shopping bargains. Book well in advance for airline tickets and your first choice of hotel or resort, particularly at the peak periods: the week between Christmas and New Year's and Easter week.

Goombay Summer is the season of low prices and high spirits in the Bahamas. It lasts for eight months, from just after Easter to just before Christmas, and rates for everything are the lowest of the year, usually 20 to 30 per cent, sometimes as much as 50 per cent, lower. Yet, paradoxically,

it may be the most fun and most interesting time of the year to visit the Bahamas. The Goombay Summer calendar is filled with exciting social, and sporting events such as golf, tennis, and fishing tournaments, and the islands are a riot of colour with tropical flowers and magnificent foliage in full bloom.

THE Bahamas offer an exceptionally broad range of visitor accommodations to fit almost any vacation lifestyle and budget. There are more than 180 guest houses, hotels, resorts, and apartment or cottage complexes, offering over 13,000 rooms for vacation rentals on some 20 islands throughout the Bahamian archipelago. Most types of vacation accommodations are included in this wide range, with the exception of campgrounds, as camping is illegal anywhere in the Bahamas.

Most of the high-rise, luxury oceanfront resorts, which offer round-the-clock activities, casinos, gourmet dining, elaborate theatre revues and a broad spectrum of sports activities including tennis and golf, are located in the resort centres of Nassau, Cable Beach, and Paradise Island on New Providence, and Freeport/Lucaya on Grand Bahama Island. But both of these islands also offer simple seaside cottages; attractive and modern apartments, townhouses, and villas for self-catering vacations; small, modest hotels with 100 rooms or less offering personalised service and informal atmosphere; charming inns with a dozen rooms or less, some in well-preserved historic homes; and sports enclaves, large and small, that cater to golf tennis, and diving enthusiasts.

On these islands, the range of accommodations is matched by the range of rates. Even the most luxurious international resorts offer a broad range of rates within the hotel complex. Throughout the year, hotel and resort rates on Grand Bahama tend to be significantly lower for comparable accommodations than in Nassau, Cable Beach and Paradise Island on New Providence.

In the Family Islands, there is almost as broad a range of vacation accommodations as in the resort capitals of Nassau and Freeport, with the exception of large high-rise resorts with casinos and other sophistications. Sports enclaves are particularly popular in the Family Islands. Bimini, Club Cay, and Walker's Cay are favourites of big game fishermen; scuba divers head for Andros, Harbour Island, Span-

ish Wells, the Exumas, Rum Cay, and Long Island. For golfers, there are luxurious country club resorts on Eleuthera at Cotton Bay and in the Abacos at Treasure Cay. Rates at Family Island resorts tend to be significantly lower than comparable accommodations in Nassau, with a few famed, worldclass exceptions in the deluxe range.

Particularly good rates are offered throughout the Bahamas during the off-season, Goombay Summer, which stretches from just after Easter to right before Christmas, when rates can be anywhere from 20 to more than 40 per cent lower than in the high-season winter months.

HERE is a projected daily estimate (based on winter or high season rates) for two persons within each island grouping.

This daily rate includes a double room at a beach hotel, and three meals a day with tips, but does not include 6 per cent room tax/resort levy, service charges, or surcharges. In addition, there is the approximate rate for a one-day sight-seeing tour with a taxi driver/tour guide or a 24-hour car rental. All prices in US dollars.

New Providence — Nassau, Cable Beach and Paradise Island — US\$

Standard, double room at a beach hotel — \$135

Breakfast at your hotel — \$15

Lunch at an inexpensive native restaurant — \$25

Three-course dinner at an expensive restaurant (without liquor) — \$60

Room, meals, gratuities \$235

One day sight-seeing with taxi driver/tour guide or 24-hour car rental

Total: \$295

Grand Bahama — Freeport, Lucaya, West End

Standard, double room at a beach hotel — \$95

Breakfast at your hotel — \$15

Lunch at an inexpensive native restaurant — \$25

Three-course dinner at an expensive restaurant (without liquor) — \$60

Room, meals, gratuities \$195

One day sight-seeing with taxi driver/tour guide or 24-hour car rental — \$60

Total: \$255

The Family Islands

Standard, double room at a beach hotel — \$90

Breakfast at your hotel — \$15

Lunch at an inexpensive native restaurant — \$15

Three-course dinner at an expensive restaurant (without liquor) — \$50



Millionaires Island: Clifton bay in Lyford Cay in the Bahamas.

Room, meals, gratuities — \$170
One day sight-seeing with taxi driver/tour guide or 24-hour car rental — \$60

Total: \$230
For air travel to the Bahamas consult your local travel agent. Approximate fares are KD350. For further information you may write to the Bahamas Tourist Office, 10 Chesterfield Street, London W1X 8 AH.

US citizens do not need a passport or a visa to visit the Bahamas for periods not exceeding eight months. A birth

certificate, voter registration card, or the United States Alien Registration Card for non-citizens residing in the US is accepted as proof of citizenship. Bahamas immigration officials sometimes accept a driver's licence with photograph as identification for Americans entering the Bahamas.

Canadian citizens and citizens of the United Kingdom do not need passports or visas to enter the Bahamas for periods not exceeding three weeks. Similar identification as required for Americans is accepted as proof of citizen-

ship.

The currency of the Bahamas is the BS, which is held on an exact par with the US dollar. Both currencies are used interchangeably throughout the Bahamas, and you can expect to receive change in either currency or both. The Bahamian dollar is divided into 1-, 5-, 10-, 25-, and 50-cent coins, and an unusual 15-cent coin. Other coins are \$1, \$2, and \$3, with special issues of larger denominations in gold and silver. Favourite coin souvenirs

are the scalloped-edge 10-cent piece, and the square-shaped 15-cent piece. Paper currency is issued in the same denominations as US currency, \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, etc. In addition, there are two unusual paper bills, the 50-cent note and the \$3 note — both favourites of collectors. All paper currency is very colourful, and is a favourite souvenir.

Currency exchange is handled by banks in the Bahamas, although some hotels will convert limited amounts of certain foreign currency at relatively high commission rates. Bank conversion rates are lower.

Join the club: no membership required

By Marion Laffey Fox

CELEBRITIES and the quietly rich have always relished the exclusivity of private clubs. Today countless hotels and resorts from Bermuda to Barbados are adopting the personalised, club-inspired, one-fee, no-hassle philosophy that has become one of the hottest ideas in warm-weather vacationing.

Without exception, these "clubs" boast dazzling sites and alluring names: Coral Beach Club, Ocean Club, and Paradise Beach Club. Some require memberships; others offer time-share arrangements. Many are simply resorts or cottage colonies that feel "clubby," with the same crowd vacationing at the same time each year.

Old-line clubs such as Mill Reef Club in Antigua and Lyford Cay Club in Nassau are still members-only places, with closely monitored gates. Entrance means rigorous admission policies, letters of recommendation, and annual membership fees.

Antigua's two-year-old St. James Club, cousin to the London and Paris clubs of the same name, is an authentic club that doesn't worry about members — yet. Fringed by two wide beaches, the lush facility accommodates more than 200 guests in long low villas unobtrusively tucked among 100 acres. This newest darling of the Caribbean features an array of water sports as well as a pool, five tennis courts, Texas quarter horses, and a gymnasium. The British have always been clubby. Sixteen properties in Bermuda are called clubs, but only two really are. The famous Mid-Ocean Club offers the best golf on the island, and an introduction from a member is required. On the south shore's most splendid site, Coral Beach and Tennis Club overlooks miles of sand and rolling surf. Reservations must be accompanied by an introduction from a member or former guest.

Some deluxe vacation spots trace their existence to bottomless fortunes and boundless eccentricity. Huntington Hartford's unabashed love affair with the Bahamas caused him to rename Hogg Island, across the bridge from Nassau, as Paradise Island. Today the remarkable house with 70 guest rooms is part of a splendid resort called the Ocean Club.



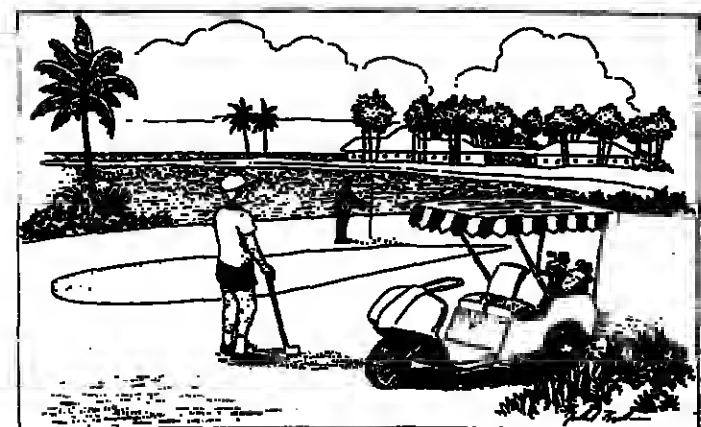
Windemere Island Club in the Bahamas. Its mystique is privacy and anonymity.

This raspberry sherbet-coloured house accented with thick white columns overlooks the sea.

The combination of house and gardens makes Hartford's former estate an unforgettable retreat. From the pool and tennis courts, 12th-century arched French cloisters establish a Mediterranean *deja vu*.

Everyone pauses to inspect the marble cherubs and nymphs that hide among pale junipers and gauzy pines. They stare at the bronze likenesses of Franklin Delano Roosevelt or Stanley Livingston, and photograph each other with Napoleon's Josephine.

In the main building, newly refurbished rooms and suites off the veranda face toward the



beach and pool. Meals that emphasise fresh seafood and local produce, are served around the pool, in the cosy dining room, or arranged at one of 14 local restaurants.

Windemere Island Club is another ideal, yet very different, Bahamian hideaway. The private island, a sandy sliver five miles long and a half-mile wide, lies 20 feet across a rustic bridge from the coast of Eleuthera. A pink beach the length of the island is Windemere's most charming asset.

Windemere's mystique is privacy and anonymity. Although many members and homeowners represent noble British families and American big business, guests soon realise that simplicity is the watchword.

The totally understated, weathered New England atmosphere includes two dining rooms, main sitting lounge, cupola-roofed library, cheerful rooms, suites, individually decorated villas, and apartments. When owners like Billy Baldwin and the Mountbatten clan are not in residence, the available rental list swells with splendid houses called Halycon House, Savannah, and Conolana.

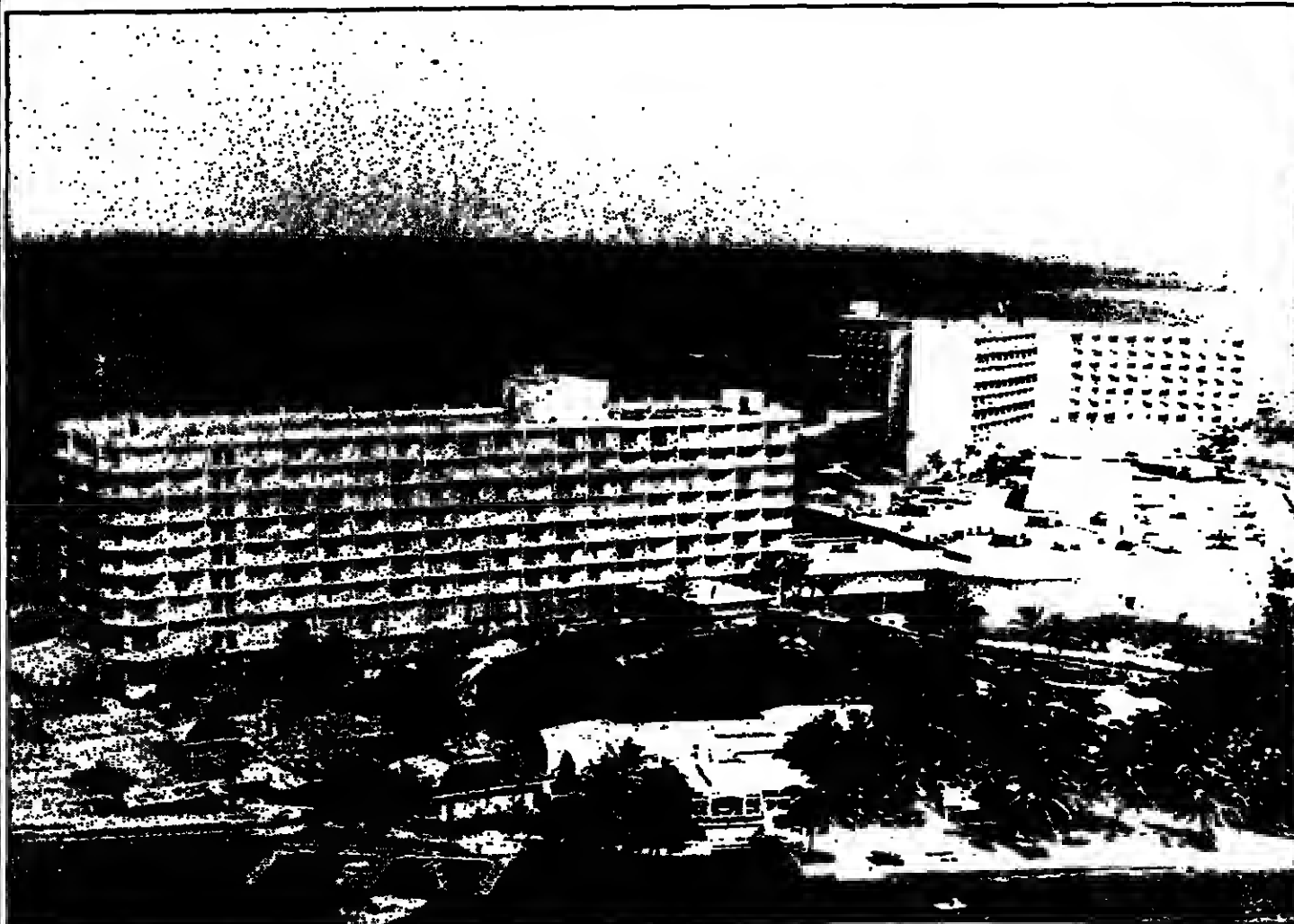
Windemere Island Club was founded in 1968 by Sir Harold G. Christie and entrepreneur Harold A. Ley. When it was recently acquired by American James Sherwood, owner of the Venice-Simpson Orient Express, guests quietly expected sweeping changes. But Sherwood insisted that, while necessary improvements should not be ignored, the unique signature of Windemere be scrupulously maintained.

Delicately tinted china and linens lend a soft look to dining areas that were once dominated by drip-dry cloths and institutional-type tableware. Jeff Bellville, the new executive chef, emphasises local products with a new taste that borders on artistry.

In addition to Windemere and the Ocean Club, there's always Tryall Golf and Beach Club in Jamaica, Oyster Pond Yacht Club on St. Martin, and the Meridian Club on Pine Cay.

Just remember to pack at least one club tie with your Bermuda shorts and blazer. You never know when you'll need just the right clothes.

©1988, The Christian Science Monitor.



The Bahamas offer an exceptionally broad range of visitor accommodations to fit any lifestyle and budget.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Arab countries told to upgrade refineries

Expert sees higher oil prices in 1990s

BAGHDAD, March 16, (Reuters): A leading Arab oil expert predicted today that world oil prices would hover in the \$15 to 20 a barrel range until 1990, and then climb sharply as Opec tightened its grip on the world oil market.

Robert Mabro of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies forecast an upturn in demand for oil produced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in the early 1990s, yielding their first real increase in vital oil revenues for a decade.

"With ups and downs, the price of oil will be maintained for a year or two, within the \$15-20 a barrel range which we saw in 1987," he told the third day of an Arab energy conference.

"In 1990-91 until the mid-1990s we shall see increases in the nominal dollar price," he said.

But Mabro cautioned that Opec must not spoil its chances by fixing prices too high or producing too much oil. Either could trigger a repeat of the 1986 oil price collapse, he said.

Oil prices have fallen around \$4 a barrel below Opec's \$18 reference price since the start of

the year in part because of high stocks from Opec overproduction last year, Mabro said. Prices are now half 1985 levels.

The 13-nation group's share of world oil output shrunk to 32 per cent in 1987 from 52 per cent in 1976 because of competition from non-Opec producers.

Suffered
Oil prices and revenues have suffered, plunging Opec states into recession and forcing them to slash development spending and once-generous foreign aid.

Mabro said that in the face of declining market share, Opec had gradually shifted from a policy of trying to control prices to one of controlling output.

This reflects the weight within Opec of Gulf oil producers led by Saudi Arabia, which favours defence of output levels before prices.

Mabro urged Opec to maintain such a policy, but frequently to adjust output quotas to reflect demand instead of the current practice of fixing them for six months at a time.

At its last meeting last December Opec set an output ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd) excluding Iraq with the

goal of holding oil prices at \$18 a barrel.

"We need an output-based policy with a price goal, but we must add to this an automatic way to adjust the quantity every month or two to ensure that the price goal is realised," he said.

Mabro saw demand for Opec oil rising to 22.5 million barrels per day (bpd) in 1991 and 26.5-27.5 million bpd in 1995 from 20.1 million bpd in 1987, assuming only moderate price rises.

A more pessimistic scenario based on higher Opec prices sees demand rising to 21.5 million bpd in 1991 and 21.4-24 million bpd in 1995.

Demand for Arab Opec oil would hit 16.7-17.6 million bpd in 1995 from output of 21.1 million bpd in 1987 under the optimistic scenario, and 12.7-14.7 million bpd under the pessimistic one.

The former could lead to a 40-45 per cent rise in the foreign exchange earnings of Arab Opec states in constant dollars between now and 1995, Mabro said.

Meanwhile, Opec's acting secretary general Fadhil Chalabi forecast a sustained period of price uncertainty in the world oil

market if non-Opec producers did not cooperate to curb oil production.

He said that a drop of some \$4 a barrel in world oil prices since the beginning of the year had resulted from high non-Opec output and low demand for Opec oil.

"The present conditions will continue for a considerable time if non-Opec supply does not decrease significantly and demand does not increase," he said.

Production
Chalabi said Opec now had to cut production if it wanted to preserve its \$18 a barrel reference price. This would mean sacrificing some of its market share to producers outside the 13 nation group.

"Opec cannot defend oil prices and its market share at the same time. Either it must defend its market share and leave prices to supply and demand, or stabilise prices and leave output levels to forces of demand," he said.

The only other alternative was to press non-Opec producers into cutting their production.

"At this time Opec can do is to create incentives for non-Opec

members to cooperate to ensure the stability of prices," he said.

He predicted that if the market continued to weaken, non-Opec producers would see it in their interest to cut production to help boost prices as they did in 1986.

"What is going on now will lead non-Opec producers to realise that it is in their interest to reduce production to achieve not necessarily a fixed price but a range of between \$15 and 18," he said.

The acting secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapec) Abdul Aziz Al Wattari said that Arab countries should concentrate on cost cuts in their refining operations through more efficient programmes rather than constructing new refineries.

Capacity
According to Al Wattari, the refining capacity in Arab countries last year reached 274 million tons, or about 41 per cent of the total oil production of all Arab countries in 1987, compared to 130 million and 46 million in 1986 and 1985 respectively.

In his paper titled "opportunities for cooperation, coordination and integration in the Arab refining industry," he said consumption of oil products in the Arab world was expected to reach 194 million tons by 1995.

He said that the surplus of oil products produced by Arab refineries could be absorbed by the Arab countries as the region was the most rapidly growing market for products in the world.

Cooperation
According to Al Wattari, Oapec was currently conducting studies on refinery capacities in Arab countries, product specification, manpower, new projects and data exchange.

He noted that under a five-year programme, covering 1987-91, Oapec was launching efforts to encourage the exchange of oil products among Arab countries.

He also stressed the need for cooperation among Arab countries in the transport and distribution of oil products and natural gas, adding that joint actions were the only option available.

He said that Oapec and other Arab organisations could play a role in the efforts towards Arab economic integration.

EEC seeks to help Third World economies

BRUSSELS, March 16, (Reuters): The European Economic Community is seeking new ways to help Third World countries burdened by debt-tightening schemes in efforts to reform their economies. EEC Development Commissioner Lorenzo Natali said today.

Natali said the Community must find a broader, quicker and more flexible strategy to help poor countries solve their most pressing problems and carry out tough economic reforms.

"Any intervention we provide for must take account of the possible social repercussions, and above all the repercussions on the poorest classes," he told a news conference.

Prices
Many poor countries, choked by debt and hit by falling world prices for their raw material exports, are having severe problems carrying out tough "structural adjustment" programmes supervised by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Natali said help with such reforms would be a key principle for the Community as it gears up for major negotiations with Third World countries on a new trade and aid accord.

The EEC and the 66-nation African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group will start talks in September on renewing the current five-year Lome convention, which will expire in 1990.

Pact
Natali declined to say how much aid the EEC would offer under the new pact, but said each of the three conventions so far had substantially raised aid to the Third World.

The current accord is worth 8.5 billion European currency units (\$10.6 billion).

Natali said the Community would work with organisations like the World Bank to help poor countries overhaul their economies.

A special debt relief programme for black African countries, approved by EEC ministers last year, could serve as a possible model for future development aid, he said.

US firms
to give Soviets marketing tips

WASHINGTON, March 16, (Reuters): American businessmen plan to advise Soviet government agencies on marketing techniques as part of the annual US-USSR Trade and Economic Council meeting in Moscow in April, the council said yesterday.

The advice is to help to strengthen the Soviet economy under its new policy of restructuring, or "perestroika," they said, and is part of a general warming of US-Soviet ties ushered in by last year's nuclear arms reduction treaty.

Sales
The week-long trade and economic meeting is to start on April 11. The Americans will brief the Soviets on selling techniques on April 12.

Among the US firms conducting the day-long sales seminar are Coca-Cola, Monsanto Chemicals, American Express and the advertising agency Young and Rubicam.

Egypt tries to attract more Arab investments

Plan to set up new joint venture firms

CAIRO, March 16, (Kuna): A senior Egyptian government official has announced plans for the setting up of three joint Arab holding companies with a combined 600 million Egyptian pounds capital in the fields of industry, agriculture and animal husbandry.

The vice-president of the National Authority for Investment and Free Zones Dr Mohamed Al Gharib told a news conference last evening that all three new ventures will be jointly launched with private Saudi investors.

He pointed out that the first company's authorised capital would be 300 million Egyptian pounds, the second 200 million compared with 100 millions representing the authorised capital of the third venture.

Dr Algharib disclosed that 60

per cent of each company's capital will be offered for public subscription, whilst the remaining 40 per cent equity will be held by the founding investors.

The executive added that the National Authority for Investment and Free Zones will directly oversee the launch of all three firms "so as everyone is assured of public subscription procedures."

Dr Al Gharib, who was speaking on the periphery of an Arab forum designed to attract new Arab investments in Egypt, also unveiled plans by Arab investors to set up polyethylene and ethylene gas plants at estimated costs of \$368 million.

He added that Egyptian authorities are also considering applications for the construction, by Arab funding of resort towns at a cost of some \$350

million.

Plans also exist for the launch of a tourist entertainment projects costing some \$15 million, the official added.

Concluding, Dr Al Gharib noted that Saudi and Egyptian investors would soon set up a joint venture for packaging manufactured commodities.

Egypt managed to make new inroads into the Arab market yesterday when its economy and foreign trade minister Dr Youssef Mustapha signed in Cairo an agreement with his UAE counterpart, Seif Al Jarwan, for increasing trade exchanges, economic and technical cooperation and encouraging investment.

Speaking on the occasion, the UAE minister pointed out that the agreement "frames deep-rooted and excellent relations

between the two sisterly countries, as a prelude to economic integration not only on the bilateral level but the pan-Arab scene."

The agreement strove to clear barriers for the export and import of agricultural, industrial and animal farm products.

It also provides facilities to encourage cooperative economic programmes between the private sectors in the two Arab countries and increasing visits by officials of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Under the accord, Abu Dhabi and Cairo are also to proffer incentives to flow of capital between the two Arab countries, in addition to providing guarantees for private investments as stipulated by the amalgamated Arab agreement on safeguards to Arab capital.

South African coal negotiators visit Japan

JOHANNESBURG, March 16, (Reuters): A senior delegation of South African coal exporters is in Japan discussing long-term contracts, a spokesman for the Transvaal Coal Owners Association said today.

The delegation includes the association's managing director Les Weiss, the chief executive of Anglo-American Coal Corporation David Rankin and top officials of Rand Mines Coal Division, the spokesman told Reuters.

Pressure
He said the group was talking to power companies but declined to give details until it returned at the end of this week.

Japan has come under political pressure since it took over from the United States in 1986 as South Africa's largest trading partner.

US lawmakers to expand farm export subsidy programme

WASHINGTON, March 16, (AP): US lawmakers drafting a compromise trade bill have agreed to expand by more than \$1 billion an export subsidy programme designed to spur worldwide sales of American agricultural commodities.

"With this action, Congress has demonstrated that it will continue to fight European Economic Community subsidisation and give American farmers a fair chance to compete in world trade," Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Patrick J. Leahy said in a statement yesterday.

The decision to expand to \$2.5 billion the export enhancement programme came at a subcommittee session of the House-Senate Conference Committee that is seeking a compromise version of trade bills passed by both houses.

Under the programme, which was first established by a 1985 US farm law, grain exporters are provided with government bonuses in the form of surplus commodities in return for shipping American farm goods. Proponents say the bonuses offset the

difference between US prices and lower price tags abroad.

But the panel put off action on the most controversial issue it faces, a Senate plan to prod the European Economic Community to drop export subsidies with the threat of a so-called marketing loan programme for wheat, corn and soybeans.

Marketing loans represent a form of subsidy that provides producers with the US price while selling the commodities abroad at world prices. The government makes up the difference.

Marketing loans established by the 1985 farm law sent exports of American cotton and rice skyrocketing while stemming a surge in honey imports.

The panel was weighing a so-called "triggered marketing loan" that would be put into effect only if current negotiations under the 92-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade failed to produce an agreement on eliminating agricultural export subsidies by the 1990 wheat marketing year.

Supporters of the concept said

a congressional visit to the GATT talks in Geneva last week found European negotiators firm over the subsidy issue and added that American negotiators want the "club" of a triggered marketing loan to hold over the heads of the their counterparts.

Leahy said the attitude of some of the Europeans has become "arrogant."

Critics said however that such a plan would strain the budget. Critics said however that such a plan would strain the budget.

Congressman Sam Gibbons distributed a letter signed by Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng, US Trade Representative Clayton K. Yeutter, White House Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Beryl Sprinkel and James Miller, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

It described the triggered marketing loan as a concept that could bring about a presidential veto of the trade bill. It was designed to counter claims that American negotiators in Geneva are encouraging the proposal.

British industry cautious on sterling, but no panic

TOKYO, March 16, (Reuters): British industry should have no problem weathering the current strength of sterling, but top British industrialists visiting Tokyo told Reuters today they did fear sterling volatility.

"We have been comfortable with where sterling has been in the past few months. We can live with it where it is. But of course, if it keeps rising, we get nervous," said Robert Giordano, chairman of industrial conglomerate BOC group.

Nine captains of industry, whose companies together account for about one-tenth of total British economic output, have been accompanying British Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young on a mission to Japan to boost export trade.

Rates
Since sterling rose over three West German marks last week, breaking through the Bank of England's unofficial limit, the markets have feared that a higher pound will affect British corporate performance by pulling down export profits.

"No industry likes very volatile exchange rates, neither

the producer, nor the consumer," said Sir Francis Tombs, Rolls Royce chairman.

As markets look to today's British budget speech in London by Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson for signs of which way the government wants sterling to go Lord Young was not overly concerned about the currency's present level.

"I doubt very much if a rise in sterling from 2.98 Deutschmarks to 3.07 Deutschmarks is going to mark the end of British industry," he said.

Concern
But the pound's rise does cause some concern. "It would be silly to say that the increase in the sterling rate against the dollar would have no impact at all," said Terry Harrison, chairman of Northern Engineering Industries.

"Our oil is sold in dollars. Many of our assets are in dollars," said Peter Cazelet, deputy chairman of British Petroleum.

Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, agreed: "It is serious for the aircraft industry because our prices are in dollars."

Rising foreign investment in America is a plus: Fed chief

US economy weathers market crash

WASHINGTON, March 16, (Reuters): The US economy is weathering the stock market crash surprisingly well and may even be close to overheating, the head of the US Central Bank said today.

Although he said major uncertainties persist because of America's trade and budget deficits, Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan gave his most optimistic outlook of the prospects for continued economic growth since the October 19 collapse in stock prices.

Expansion
"Overall, the chances appear relatively good for maintaining the current expansion through another year," he told the congressional joint economic committee.

The expansion, 64 months old, is already the longest in peacetime, and the Republican Party hopes it will stay alive to boost their chances in November's presidential election.

Greenspan said conditions in the financial markets have calmed considerably since the upheaval in stocks, while recent statistics have allayed fears that belt-tightening by consumers will slow the economy in the first part of 1988.

Prospects
In follow-up questions, Greenspan hinted that the Federal Reserve might have to take steps to prevent the economy from growing too fast and stoking the fires of inflation.

The task of the Fed, he explained, is to keep interest rates low enough to keep the economy growing while staying alert to the need for a more restrictive policy if inflation threatens to loom large.

Although Greenspan called the economy's near-term prospects reasonably encouraging, he said there are no grounds for complacency because America's

dependence on imported capital makes it vulnerable to a sudden loss of confidence by foreign investors.

The US deficit on its current account, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services as well as investment earnings, was \$38.99 billion in the fourth quarter of 1987, down from 43.44 billion in the third quarter, according to Commerce Department figures released yesterday.

Greenspan said the best way to close this gap was to increase domestic savings by eliminating the federal budget deficit.

Comments
In other comments, he said Britain did the right thing last week in allowing the pound to rise above 3.00 West German marks.

Market pressure to buy sterling was so great it would have been very hard for the Bank of England to hold the exchange rate down by cutting interest

rates or selling pounds. "What they chose to do was the correct action," Greenspan said.

Despite the pound's surge, America and its trading partners in the Group of Seven — Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — had been reasonably successful in ensuring stable exchange rates and would continue to cooperate to that end, Greenspan added.

Greenspan said that foreign investment in the United States "is a plus," even at current record levels.

He said he was less worried about the fact that more and more US assets are being acquired by Japanese and other foreign investors than he would be if they were simply amassing US dollars.

Despite the recent increase in foreign holdings in the United States, "we still have a \$50-billion greater balance in investment abroad," Greenspan said.

THE HAGUE, March 16, (Reuters): The Dutch government plans to bring in sweeping tax cuts for companies and individuals this year, Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers announced yesterday.

Addressing a news conference after four days of bargaining in his centre-right coalition, he said the plan to cut 10 billion guilders (\$5.2 billion) in income and corporate taxes would create 15,000 to 20,000 new jobs by 1990.

He said the proposals, which have to be submitted to parliament, would cut companies' tax bills and social security premiums by 5.65 billion guilders (\$3 billion) this year.

Lubbers said the package was designed to create new jobs through stronger economic growth and to maintain the purchasing power of the working population while cutting the budget deficit.

Dutch premier announces plans for tax cuts

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World Business Summary

Industrialised GATT traders come under fire

MEXICO CITY, March 16, (Xinhua): Member nations of the Latin American Economic System (Sela) have charged the industrialised nations with failing to comply with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and even with their own commercial regulations and standards. A conclusion reached at the second Latin American consultation round on Sunday was that these industrialised nations placed themselves "at the margin of law."

Representatives of Sela's 25 member nations began their meeting on March 9 in Caracas, Venezuela. Noting that the industrial nations are the principal forces in GATT, Felipe Jaramillo, president of the meeting, said, "this attitude of not respecting the agreement by the great powers is what continues to damage the economies and foreign trade of developing countries."

During the meeting, Sela delegates stressed the necessity of finding solutions to monetary and financial problems and outstanding debts, and they appealed to industrialised countries not to enact protectionist measures and to remove existing trade barriers.

They also formally requested that preferential treatment be given to developing countries. Jaramillo noted that in order to preserve the integrity of the Latin American market, "it is essential that all GATT members live up to the commitments made during the Uruguay round of trade negotiations and continue the fight against protectionist trade barriers while promoting the dismantling of the existing barriers."

This December, the 25 Latin American delegations will participate in a trade summit in Canada where 90 GATT members and 30 participating nations are expected to negotiate their differences.

Nissan to set up design centre in Britain

LONDON, March 16, (Xinhua): Nissan Motors, Japan's second largest car manufacturer, will establish a European design centre in Britain to consolidate and expand its operations behind European import restrictions. The company, which has invested \$1.1 billion in a car plant in Britain, said the move was a key element in its plan to build up a fully-integrated European operation.

Nissan is the largest Japanese investor in Europe with its output of the first model, the Nissan Bluebird, being due to rise to around 50,000 cars this year and 100,000 by 1991. Nissan said today that the design centre will develop models to meet the specific demands of the European consumer and be responsible for original body design and development on Nissan vehicles produced in Europe. The centre will play an important role in developing the body and trim for Nissan's second model range, a supermini in the class of the existing imported Nissan Micra, which will begin in 1992.

The design centre, with 50 people initially, will be operational by the end of the year and will increase its work force to around 150 by the early 1990s. The Nissan cars produced in Britain will be classified as Britain-made cars rather than Japanese imports. As a result, the Nissan Bluebird will be free from the import restrictions laid down in the 'gentlemen's agreement' between Britain and Japan. Since 1970, Nissan has had a European engineering office in Belgium, with specialised engineers working in areas such as technical surveys, research and marketing.

Pressure
He said the group was talking to power companies but declined to give details until it returned at the end of this week.

Japan has come under political pressure since it took over from the United States in 1986 as South Africa's largest trading partner.

US trade negotiators seek windfall tax repeal

WASHINGTON, March 16, (Reuters): Trade bill negotiators in the US Senate are urging their congressional counterparts to repeal the windfall profits tax on oil, Senator Lloyd Bentsen said yesterday.

The House and Senate last year passed differing versions of a massive US trade bill. Negotiators now are trying to work out the differences. Senate negotiators, led by Bentsen, a Texas Democrat, completed work on a proposal that was sent to House negotiators, who must now respond. Asked about a windfall tax repeal, which was not included in the House version but was part of the Senate measure, Bentsen said: "We kept it... I'm hopeful it will prevail."

The tax, passed in 1980 as part of US reaction to its energy crisis, is collected on oil sales that violate a pre-established price ceiling. The administration strongly backs the repeal, and several key democratic leaders, like Bentsen, have been pushing for it. Because of the world oil price slump no tax has been collected in recent years.

IMF assessment of Egyptian reforms expected shortly

CAIRO, March 16, (Reuters): International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials are expected this week to accept or reject Egypt's reforms under a credits deal agreed last May, sources close to talks between both sides said yesterday. Discussions between IMF officials led by the fund's Middle East chief, Abdel-Shakour Shaalan, and an Egyptian team from several departments have proceeded in complete secrecy. "We are having talks, that's it, an IMF participant said when asked about progress. "I don't want to say there is no progress," he added hastily. "I just want to say nothing." At stake is IMF endorsement of Egyptian government steps towards unifying exchange rates, reducing the budget deficit, increasing domestic interest rates and reducing state subsidies on basic goods. Western diplomats say the fund has been disappointed by the pace of reform since last May's accord, and the current review is crucial to future relations with Cairo. But President Hosni Mubarak has won sympathy from several governments — notably the United States and France — for the position that Egypt should make changes at its own pace, without overhauling the poor economy.

Shaalan was expected to end his assessment in two days and to report to IMF managing director Michel Camdessus, the sources close to the talks said.

Egypt stands to receive a second instalment from blocked IMF credits totalling over \$150 million if it gets a favourable report. Fund endorsement is also vital if Egypt, as expected, seeks to reschedule payments on its \$43 billion foreign debt for 18 months from next July 1, when current rescheduling agreed by the Paris Club of Western government creditors ends.

Hongkong Bank profits surge

HONG KONG, March 16, (Reuters): Hong Kong's biggest bank today reported a major increase in profits in 1987 because of improved performances in traditional banking operations, especially in Hong Kong and South-East Asia.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the world's 30th in terms of assets at the end of 1987, announced profits of nearly 3.6 billion dollars (\$463 million), an increase of 17.6 per cent over the year before. It said the outlook for 1988 was uncertain, predicting higher inflation and slower economic growth in the major industrial countries.

"The United States budget and trade deficits remain high, and recovery prospects are overshadowed by the after-effects of the October stock market collapse," the bank said. It said the international banking industry's exposure to the debts of less developed countries remained a cause for concern. Chairman of the board William Purves said the bank would transfer most of its European branches to its UK-based associate Midland Bank and its subsidiaries in an effort to consolidate its operations, but would keep its offices in London. It bought 14.9 per cent of Midland last December.

Hongkong Bank would take over Midland's operations in Toronto and offices in South-East Asia, he said.

International Bond Highlights

Frankfurt — Societe Generale Bank Nederland NV is issuing a 150 min mark five-year Eurobond (RTTB 0625) with five pct coupon priced at 100-3/4, lead manager Societe Generale-Elsasische Bank and Co. said.

Zurich — Electricite de France is issuing a 150 min Swiss franc, 20 year bond with a five pct coupon and 101-3/4 issue price, lead manager Swiss Bank Corp said. (RTTU 1308)

London — Swedish Export Credit (SEK) is issuing a 50 min ECU Eurobond due April 21, 1992, paying 7-3/8 pct and priced at 101-5/8 pct. Banque Paribas Capital Markets Ltd said as lead manager. (RTYI 1601)

London — New Zealand is issuing a 10 billion yen Eurobond due July 14, 1993 paying live pct and priced at 101-3/4, lead manager Nomura International said. (RTYE 1536)

London — Wasing Machine Co Ltd is issuing a 50 min dir equity warrant Eurobond due April 13, 1993, paying an indicated 4-5/8 pct and priced at par, Daiwa Europe Ltd said as lead manager. (RTUL 1111)

Paris — Electricite de France is issuing a 3.5 billion franc domestic bond in three tranches, the respective lead managers said. (RTYO 1612)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-7/8 3/4	8-7/8 13/16	9 5/8 7/8
FFI 3.25/35	40/50	40/50
PAR 7-11/16 3/4	7-3/4 7/8	8-1/16 3/16
ZUR 1-1/8 3/8	1-3/8 1-5/8	1-5/8 7/8
BRX 6.10	6.00 1/8	6-1/16 3/16
ROM 10-1/8 10-5/8	11-1/4 11-3/4	11-1/4 11-3/4
AMS 4-0/0 4-1/8	3-15/16 4-1/16	4-0/0 4-1/8
TOK 3.4375 5000	3.9375 4.0000	3.8125 8750
ECU 6.062 6.312	6.18 6.31	6.31 6.43

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	41/16	49/16
3 months	41/16	45/8
6 months	47/16	415/16
1 year	411/16	53/16

BOMBAY

PR-CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	65	65.50	NICO	525	515	515
ACC	146	147	145.50	31.50	31	31	80	79	80.50
ASIA PAINT	147.50	145	148.75	31.50	31	31	430	432.50	427.50
BAJAJ AUTO	412.50	412.50	417.50	105	104	104.50	20.50	18.50	20
BAL. RAYON	177	185	180	124	123	122	27	26	26.50
BOM. DYING	130	130	132	81.50	80	81.25	26.75	26.50	26
BR. BOND	84	82	84	18.50	18.25	18	47	46	47
BSE INDEX	428.37	419.97	419.97	16	16.50	16.50	86	87	87
CENTURYSPG	770	770	787.50	52.50	52.50	52.50	65	64	65
COLGATE	190	187.50	185	166.50	165	162.50	26.75	27	25.50
DEEPAKERT	27	26.25	26.50	36	36	36.50	245	230	240
ET. HOTEL	44	42	44	60	58.50	59	192.50	195	192.50
ESKAYEF	170	167.50	171.25	85	83.50	84	62.50	61	62.50
ESSAR	17.50	17.50	18	54	54	54	370	365	388
GAR. POLY	77.50	76.50	76	9.12	9	9.12	636.25	637.50	650
GE. SHIP	24.50	24.15	24.35	100	98	96.50	255	242.50	245

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AGE	257.0	245.5
ALLIANZ VR	1382.0	1372.0
BADENWERK	176.2	177.2
BASF	248.5	242.5
BAYER	268.2	263.3
BAYER HYP	359.0	359.0
BAYER VER	363.0	355.2
BBIC	310.0	309.5
BIF	350.0	342.0
BIM	536.0	530.0
CHENIE-VER	0	120.0
COMMERZBK	236.5	235.5
CONTI GUM	241.8	237.8
DAIHER	699.5	700.0
DEUTSCH BIK	432.5	428.8
DLV	340.0	338.0
DRESDENER	258.0	252.5
DT BAROCK	167.0	162.5
FAZ INDEX	465.07	460.55
GOLDSTEIN	245.0	243.0
GUTENHOFF	0	0
HARPER	405.0	405.0
HOECHST AG	263.8	259.3
HOESCH	113.0	113.0
HORTEN	195.0	194.5
NUSSEL NLD	454.0	446.0
KALI SALZ	144.5	143.5
KARSTADT	449.5	444.0
KAUFHOF	399.5	388.5
KLOECK H	103.5	101.5
KLOECK W	0	81.5
LINDE	586.0	578.0
LUFTHANSA	147.0	146.5
MAN	162.0	161.0
MANHESMAN	126.0	123.5
MERCEDES	576.0	573.0
METALLGES	550.0	550.0
NIXDORF PF	270.0	269.1
NORSK HYD	47.30	47.40
PHILIP KON	630.0	625.5
PORSCHE	521.0	506.5
PREUSSAG	137.0	134.0
PWA	198.5	197.5
RHEIN	208.0	204.5
RHEIN P	200.0	197.7
RHEINMETAL	260.0	251.5
SALAMANDER	270.0	269.5
SCHERING	461.5	456.0
SEL	315.0	310.0
SIEMENS	391.0	385.4
THYSEN	129.7	129.0
VARTA	274.5	268.0
VEBA	261.5	258.6
VEW	165.0	163.3
VOLKSWAGEN	242.3	238.9

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
C H TUNNEL	14.40	14.10
CHINA C	7.75	7.85
CHINA GAS	16.20	16.20
CHINA L-P	19.10	19.40
CHINA MOTR	18.50	18.50
CHINA PROP	0	4.30
EVEREST	34	32
FAR EAST C	79	80
GEN ORIENT	0	44.00
H C DEVELP	8.85	8.80
H S INDEX	555.04	578.92
HANG LUNG	4.90	4.90
HANG SENG	32.25	32.75
HAW PAR BR	0	21.00
HK ELEC CO	8.20	8.20
HK KOLCOON	6.80	6.85
HK LAND CO	7.75	7.85
HK SHAN BK	7.40	7.40
HK SHAN HT	4.00	4.07
HK TELE CO	7.35	7.45
HUTCH WHAN	8.70	8.75
IND EQ PAC	8.70	8.35
JARDINE H	12.00	12.20
KOOLMOON H	11.20	11.20
NEW WORLD	9.00	9.00
PAUL Y CON	1.75	1.74
REALITY DEV	0	5.45
S H K CO	1.77	1.80
S H K PROP	9.70	9.70
SINE DARY	1.53	1.52
STELLUX MFG	5.40	5.45
SHIRE PAC	17.50	17.50
T V B CO	0	13.90
TAI CHEUNG	3.55	3.50
UNITION BANK	1.60	1.58
WOCK HAD	0	7.25
WOCK HAT	0	1.15
WORLD INTL	3.00	3.02

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AJINOMOTO	3280	3230
AKAI ELEC	618	630
AKI	981	975
ASAHI GAS	1940	1910
ASAHI OPT	608	618
BANK TOKYO	1530	1520
BRIDGESTON	1330	1350
CANON	1160	1110
CASIO COMP	1290	1260
CHUGAI PHM	0	1700
CITIZEN W	638	640
O-ICHI KAN	3010	3020
DAI NIP ITK	799	799
DAI NIP PT	2560	2530
DAI NIP SC	980	957
DAI NIP TO	522	522
DAICEL	1720	1720
DATUM SEC	2750	2660
EBRA HFG	916	901
EISAI	2590	2550
FUJITSU	1500	1490
FUJI BANK	3380	3350
FUJI PHOTO	4280	4180
FUJITSUA	2030	2010
FUJITA CP	738	724
HITACHI	1410	1340
HONDA MOT	1720	1650
ISETAN	1370	1350
ITO YOKADO	4140	4090
JAP SYN R	1020	1010
JAPAN AIR	15500	15400
JAPAN MET	482	490
KAJIMA	1570	1500
KANSAI EL	2980	2930
KAO SOAP	1930	1900
KAWASAKI H	352	364
KAWASAKI S	408	411
KIRIN BEV	2300	2260
KONATSU	646	643
KYOBATO LTD	708	690
KYOCERA	5500	5410
MAKITA EL	1860	1790
MARUI	3000	2950
MATSUDA EI	2620	2510
MATSUDA EL	2590	2500
MEIJI SEIK	935	938
DAI NIP TO	1220	1200
DAI NIP EST	2220	2120
DAI NIP HYV	675	679
DAI NIP CO	815	792
DAI NIP KOSHI	1510	1530
DAI NIP EL	1200	1160
NICHICON	1360	1380
NICHON CNT	865	860
NIP SEC	2100	2050
NIP KOKKAN	398	399
NIP OIL	1210	1230
NIP STEEL	466	469
NIP YUSEN	594	585
NIS MOTOR	877	875
NOMURA SEC	4080	3940
OLYMPUS	993	1010
PENTACON	833	830
PIONEER	3380	3320
RENOVA	857	885
RICOH	1260	1230
SANKYO	2200	2160
SANYO ELEC	555	541
SEIKI ST	2280	2310
SEIKI PB	1850	1810
SHARP	1010	1020
SHISEIDO	1690	1690
SONY	5220	5130
SUNITOMO	1100	1100
TAISEI	934	913
TAISHO PHM	1160	1150
TAKEDA CH	3190	3130
TEIJIN	833	833
TEKNO IX	106.18	84.80
TOKIO PHM	2080	2060
TOKYO ELEC	1150	1160
TOKYO GAS	1240	1230
TOKYO POWR	6350	6150
TORAY IND	815	824
TOSHIBA	792	785
TOTO	2290	2300
TOYO KOGY	444	445
TOYOTA MOT	2420	2360
YAMAH	1200	1170
YAMATON	2080	2050
YAMAMOTO	4170	4140
YAMAZAKI	1460	1480

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE HIGHER IN HEAVY TRADE. TOKYO, MARCH 16, REUTER — SHARE PRICES CLOSED HIGHER DUE TO OPTIMISM SPURRED BY MOST SPECIAL MONEY TRUSTS, OR TOKKIN, HAVING CLOSED THEIR BOOKS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR, BROKERS SAID. THIS HELPED EASE TENSION AMONG THURSDAY'S RELEASE OF U.S. JANUARY TRADE DEFICIT DATA, BROKERS SAID.

U.S. JANUARY TRADE DEFICIT DATA, BROKERS SAID. "BUT THAT THE TREND IS THE DEFICIT IS LESSENING," THE NIKKEI INDEX CLIMBED 228.76 POINTS, OR 0.90 PCT, TO 25,704.43. IT ROSE 42.16 POINTS ON TUESDAY. RISES LED FALLS 1.4 TO ONE IN HEAVY VOLUME OF 1.6 BILLION SHARES.

SECURITIES HOUSE, RAILWAY/BUS, BANK, ELECTRONIC, REAL ESTATE, COMMUNICATIONS, PHARMACEUTICAL, RUBBER, NON-LIFE INSURANCE, CREDIT/LEASE AND PRECISION INSTRUMENTS LED THE ADVANCE. AIRLINE, OIL, STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING ISSUES DECLINED.

A PERSISTENT MARKET CONCERN HAS BEEN BOOKSQUARING SELLING BY TOKKIN AS THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR APPROACHED, BROKERS SAID. MANY OF THESE FUNDS WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE ACCUMULATED LOSSES DUE TO LAST OCTOBER'S CRASH.

BROKERS SAID THE MAJORITY OF TOKKIN WILL HAVE CLOSED THEIR BOOKS BY THIS WEEK, AND THERE WAS RELIEF AMONG INVESTORS THAT THIS MARKET FACTOR WOULD SOON BE HISTORY.

THERE IS STILL SOME CONCERN REGARDING THE U.S. DEFICIT FIGURE, SAID ANALYST MORIYASU TANARA OF SCHRODER SECURITIES, "BUT POSITIVE FACTORS LIKE THE END OF THE TOKKIN ACCOUNTING FISCAL YEAR ARE STRONGER THAN CAUTION."

ESTIMATES FOR THE U.S. TRADE SHORTFALL GENERALLY RANGE FROM 13 BILLION TO 14 BILLION DLRS, BROKERS SAID, ADDING THAT NOW CURRENCY REACTS TO THE NUMBERS IS THE MAIN FOCUS.

SOME BROKERS ATTRIBUTED TODAY'S STRENGTH PARTLY TO MONEY TRICKLING IN FROM MARUYU, OR TAX-FREE INTEREST ACCOUNTS. THESE ACCOUNTS WILL BE ABOLISHED AS OF APRIL 1.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MARCH 16, REUTER — STOCKS CLOSED EASIER BUT WERE OFF THE DAY'S LOW AFTER LOCAL DEMAND EMERGED IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX FINISHED OFF 23.88 POINTS AT 2,555.04 AND THE HONG KONG INDEX WAS DOWN 14.59 AT 1,674.64.

BRITISH FUND MANAGERS WERE MAJOR SELLERS IN THE DAY BUT SHARE PRICES FOUND STRONG SUPPORT AT BELOW THE HANG SENG INDEX'S 2,550 MARK.

"HONGKONG BANK'S ANNUAL REPORT (ON TUESDAY) ALSO HAD AN ANTICIPATORY EFFECT," SAID A TRADER WITH A U.S. BASED STOCK BROKER.

AMMAN

OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.37 1.39
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.89 1.86
ARAB BANK	114.0 113.5
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	4.40 4.35
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47 1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	0.94 0.94
ARAB INT. INV. TRAD.	0.96 0.79
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.53 0.58
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	2.12 2.12
ARAB JOR. INVST/BK	0.37 0.37
ARAB PAPER COM/TRD	2.10 2.10
ARAB PHARMA. MAHF.	0.76 0.75
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	1.65 1.65
ARAB POTASH CO.	16.30 16.20
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.00 0.95
BANK OF JORDAN	30.00 30.00
BELGIUM INSURANCE	0.41 0.40
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	1.49 1.49
DAR ALDANA DV/INV.	0.45 0.45
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.59 0.58
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	4.05 4.05
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	2.39 2.63
GENERAL INSURANCE	1.34 1.33
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.50 1.45
GENERAL MINING.	0.79 0.79
NIMMEN MINERALS	1.15 1.20
HOLY LAND INS.	0.75 0.72
IND. MATCH JEMCO	1.34 1.34
INDSTR. DEVLPT BANK	1.45 1.44
INDSTR. COM/AGR.	0.75 0.75
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.96 0.96
INTERN. COM/INV.	0.64 0.64
IRSID ELECTRICITY	0.64 0.64
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	1.47 1.48
INTERMED/PETRI/CH	0.75 0.75
J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX	1.32 1.30
JERUSALEM INS.	13.50 13.55
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	1.06 1.05
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	28.01 25.05
JOR EAGLE INS.	1.47 1.47
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.20 1.18
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.03 1.02
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	2.50 2.50
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	1.75 1.74
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.20 1.20
JOR INS AND FIN.	0.77 0.77
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.26 0.26
JOR LIM BRICK	0.50 0.50
JOR MAHAG/CONSULT	2.44 2.45
JOR NATIONAL BANK	3.16 3.19
JOR PAPER CARDBROG	2.30 2.25
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	1.18 1.17
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	2.05 2.00
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	3.00 3.65
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	0.67 0.65
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.91 0.91
JOR SECURIT. CORP	3.06 3.03
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	1.33 1.32
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	4.50 4.35
JOR WORSTED MLL	1.00 1.00
JOR KUWAIT AGR	7.10 7.07
JOR. PETROLEUM REF	5.50 5.47
JOR. FRENCH INS.	1.86 1.87
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	0.33 0.33
JORDANIAN GULF REAL	1.03 1.02
JORDAN DAIRY	1.20 1.20

Kuwait total energy use set to rise further

BAGHDAD, March 16. (Kuna): According to a Kuwaiti study published here today, Kuwait total consumption of energy in the year 2000 will rise to 96.7 million barrels a year, an increase of 1.2 to 2.3 per cent year.

The report, tabled by the Kuwaiti delegation to the fourth Arab energy conference, which winds up here tomorrow, said the largest part of consumption would be in the field of electricity generation which will rise to 39 million barrels in the year 2000 against 35.4 million barrels in 1986.

The study indicated that total use of energy for all purposes in Kuwait has reached 74.4 million barrels of oil in 1986, which equals 203,000 barrels a day.

The study has projected its estimates of future demand for energy in the period 1990 to 2000 on the basis of present forecasts on national income, estimated population growth, per capita income and expected changes in oil prices and general averages of inflation.

According to the study forecasts, domestic consumption of energy including electricity, would rise to 12.1 million barrels of oil in 2000 compared to only 9.3 million barrels in 1986.

It also expected, in transportation sector, that energy utilisation would grow from 13.9 million barrels of oil in 1986 to nearly 25.6 million barrels in 2000.

The study, however, estimated that individual share of total energy would decrease from 41 to 31 barrels for the same period on the basis of projected population growth and changes in electricity tariffs.

The study said that despite the decrease in demand for energy in the world market the number of workers in the field of energy in Kuwait edged up from 25,400 in 1980 to 27,600 in 1986.

The report added that such hike is related to increasing activities of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries such as the modernisation of refineries at home, or acquisition of projects abroad.

It indicated that a number of workers of the Ministry of Water and Electricity declined to 11,400 in 1986 from 13,000 in 1981.

The Kuwaiti delegation to the conference is headed by Siam Ruzuki from the Oil Ministry, and includes a number of officials from the ministry, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in addition to Kuwait Petrochemical Industries Company.

Brazil raises gasoline prices

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, March 16. (AP): The government raised the price of gasoline, alcohol fuel and petroleum derivatives yesterday by an average of 18.65 per cent.

The pump price of gasoline rose to the equivalent of \$1.57 a gallon. Pure alcohol fuel, which powers about 25 per cent of the nation's 10 million cars, went up to \$1.30 a gallon.

Similar increases were decreed for diesel fuel, cooking gas, fuel oil, naphtha and airplane fuel.

The National Petroleum Council said the increase was due to the almost daily devaluation of the Brazilian cruzado and to higher costs for alcohol producers, transport and packaging.

It was the third increase this year, bringing the total increase to 60.70 per cent since January. The last increase was on Feb 9 and inflation in the period is estimated at 59.41 per cent in the first three months.

Brazil has pledged to keep alcohol 35 per cent cheaper than gasoline in an effort to encourage motorists to switch to vehicles powered by alcohol, which is made from domestically-grown sugar cane.

Plant

Construction must begin "at the latest in 1990," said Research and Technology Minister B. J. Habibie.

He insisted that traditional and untapped resources will not satisfy the electricity demands of an industrialising Indonesia by the turn of the century.

Pressure on dollar eases

Sterling firms again, gold soars

LONDON, March 16. (Reuters): Britain's pound sterling rose again today but an international buying spree cooled enough to take some pressure off the dollar, dealers said.

A rising pound last week sent the dollar down against other currencies, too. But sterling's renewed firmness after a tax-cutting British budget yesterday has yet to hit the dollar.

Attraction

Shares were mixed. London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares fell more than 10 points in early trading to dip below 1,830. In Tokyo, the Nikkei Stock Market index climbed 228.76 points, or 0.90 per cent, to 25,704.43.

Dealers say they are waiting to see what — if anything — Britain's Central Bank will do to slow the flow of foreign money into the country attracted by relatively high British interest rates. Last week's huge flow affected currency values and share prices around the world.

"Sterling is still the main attraction," said a senior British bank dealer. "The main thing today will be finding out what the Bank of England's up to."

The pound edged up slightly to \$1.85 and was up about 0.75 pence to approach 3.09 Deutsche marks. The dollar, meanwhile, rose about half a pence to 1.67 marks and gained half a yen to 127.50 yen.

The price of gold was fixed in London at \$447.15 an ounce, up \$4.95.

Oil prices remained depressed by a worldwide glut.

Britain, the biggest North Sea oil producer, seems unfazed and in his budget speech yesterday Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson forecast steady, strong growth.

Shares

That, and Lawson's tax cuts, should boost shares, but investors were worried that a strong pound will price British goods out of foreign markets.

And Britain's high interest rates mean investors can get a good return on their money by

parking it in British bank accounts and bonds. Their sterling buying has boosted its value.

High interest rates are aimed at keeping inflation down and Britain seems likely to keep rates up.

"Interest rates are really the only effective instrument you have to keep inflation ... and the economy on track," Lawson said in a commercial radio interview today.

Rise

"Although government borrowing has disappeared altogether ... private borrowing is still running at a high level and that is why interest rates have to be maintained high," he said.

If interest rates do not fall, the other way of capping sterling is for the Bank of England to sell pounds.

During Lawson's speech yesterday, the Bank of England intervened to slow sterling's rise, for the first time in days.

"There was a technical downward reaction after the Bank of England intervention yesterday.

Everyone was long and no one wanted to push too far. But now the time has come to push sterling up again," a Frankfurt dealer said.

Dealers are being cautious, however, because of what looked like a dispute over currency-rate policy between Lawson and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher last week.

Thatcher is worried that spending money to keep the pound down will boost inflation.

Currency rates preoccupy other markets, too.

Hopes

In Frankfurt, share prices rose as the dollar's firm tone raised hopes: that West German companies would not lose still more American sales. Paris shares were steady, while Amsterdam's CBS all-share index rose 0.2 points to 82.6. The All-Share Swiss index rose 1.4 points to 857.

Sydney's all-ordinaries index eased one point to 1,357.9 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng eased 23.88 points to 2,555.04.

US current account trade deficit surges

WASHINGTON, March 16. (AP): The deficit in the broadest measure of US foreign trade surged to a record \$160.7 billion in 1987, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said the current account deficit last year was 13.7 per cent higher than the previous record of \$141.4 billion set in 1986, even though the deficit for the final three months of 1987 narrowed slightly.

The current account covers not only the flow of merchandise across the US border but also the flow of services, primarily investment earnings, between countries.

Foreigners

While the United States has run deficits in merchandise trade for 16 of the past 17 years, the current account was in surplus as recently as 1981 as Americans' earnings on overseas investments were enough to offset the merchandise deficits.

But since that time, Americans have handed over billions of dollars to foreigners in exchange for imported goods. With all of that wealth now in foreign hands, the perennial advantage the United States has had in invest-

ments has shifted and America has become the world's largest debtor country.

Being a net debtor means that foreigners now own more in US investments than Americans hold in foreign investments. America was last a net debtor in 1914. It regained that status in 1985 with a foreign debt of \$11.9 billion.

That debt grew to \$263.6 billion at the end of 1986. Economists said with today's new figures, the total debt has probably surpassed \$400 billion.

Surplus

Today's report showed that the bulk of the 1987 trade deficit came from a \$159.2-billion imbalance in merchandise trade, a figure which was first reported last month. Adding to that deficit were payments of \$13.5 billion in foreign aid and other government transfer payments such as social security paid to retirees living overseas.

That figure was reduced slightly by a surplus of \$12 billion in the services category. While foreigners now own more in US investments, the surplus payments still showed a slight positive because many of the older US investments are earning

a higher rate of return.

However, the services surplus was down from \$18.6 billion in 1986 and has been dwindling steadily.

Economists expect the services surplus to be wiped out altogether in future years as more and more American dollars are paid to foreigners to meet interest payments on the US debt.

For the fourth quarter, the current account deficit shrank slightly to \$39 billion, down from \$43 billion in the third quarter. This improvement reflected a slightly smaller merchandise trade deficit and a resumption of surpluses in the services category. In the third quarter, the United States had run a deficit with the rest of the world in investment earnings for the first time in 29 years.

Failure

Democratic presidential candidates have been attacking President Ronald Reagan's Republican administration, charging that the country's new status as the world's biggest debtor was directly attributable to failure to come to grips with huge federal budget deficits.

The Democrats argue that the

American industrial output and housing starts rise

WASHINGTON, March 16. (Reuters): US industrial production rose 0.2 per cent in February while housing starts climbed 8.9 per cent to an annual rate of 1,494,000, the government reported today.

The modest rise in industrial output, which was in line with expectations, followed revised gains of 0.3 per cent in January and 0.5 per cent in December, in both cases a tenth of a percentage point more than the Federal Reserve Board first estimated.

The increase in housing starts, reported by the Commerce Department, was the largest since December 1986 and surpassed economists' forecasts of a rebound from depressed December and January levels. Together with strong figures recently on employment and car sales, the two reports depicted an economy that seemed to have completely shaken off the impact of last October's stock market collapse and was still expanding steadily, economists said.

Sales

The new figures are a boon for the Republican Party's presidential frontrunner, Vice-President George Bush, who is campaigning on the platform of the Reagan administration's economic track record.

But they will do little to reassure US Central Bank chief Alan Greenspan, who warned Congress yesterday that the Federal

Reserve might have to raise interest rates to quell inflation if the economy continued to gather momentum.

Those worries were reflected in the government bond market, where 30-year interest rates, a benchmark for mortgage and corporate bond rates, rose to 8.57 per cent from 8.52 at yesterday's close.

Markets

With manufacturers enjoying an export boom thanks to the drop in the dollar, which makes US goods more competitive on world markets, industrial production in February was up 5.8 per cent from a year earlier.

The Fed said a 0.3 per cent increase in the production of non-durable goods more than offset a 0.2 per cent drop in durable items in February.

Output of consumer goods rose 0.2 per cent in February after increasing 0.7 per cent in January, while cars were assembled at an annual rate of 6.1 million compared with 6.0 million in January.

Business equipment production rose 0.7 per cent in both February and January.

Manufacturing production rose 0.2 per cent in February after an increase of 0.2 per cent in January, while output by utilities rose 0.7 per cent after a 1.8 per cent January gain.

But mining output fell 0.8 per cent after dropping 0.7 per cent in January, the Fed said.

Another bright spot in the housing report was a 11.5 per cent surge in February in the number of permits issued for future construction, the Commerce Department said.

Worried

When housing starts dropped 16 per cent in December to a three-year low annual rate of less than 1,400,000, some economists worried that belt-tightening after October's stock market crash could usher in a recession in the industry.

Those fears persisted when the number of starts in January, instead of rebounding, dropped further.

But February's data seemed to justify the assessment Greenspan made last month that the back-to-back declines were a statistical fluke caused by a narrow sampling base and were no reason for alarm.

The increases in starts and permits, a barometer of future building activity, were the first since November 1987.

Despite the increases, February starts were 17.4 per cent below the February 1987 level, while permits were down 16.3 per cent from a year earlier.

The rise in permits followed a revised decline of 7.6 per cent in January. The government originally estimated the drop at 8.2 per cent.

Facility

Habibie said this makes the project feasible without government funds or borrowing.

Whether to go ahead is up to Suharto, who has already supported the development of three nuclear research reactors. The newest ranks as the third largest

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The increases in starts and permits, a barometer of future building activity, were the first since November 1987.

Despite the increases, February starts were 17.4 per cent below the February 1987 level, while permits were down 16.3 per cent from a year earlier.

The rise in permits followed a revised decline of 7.6 per cent in January. The government originally estimated the drop at 8.2 per cent.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 16. (Reuters): Australian shares closed barely steady with buying by local institutions pulling up prices from early lows. The All Ordinaries was down one point to 1,357.9.

TOKYO: Share prices closed higher on optimism spurred by most special money trusts, or Tokkin, having closed their books for this fiscal year. The Nikkei index climbed 228.76 points or 0.90 per cent to 25,704.43.

HONG KONG: Stocks closed easier but off the day's lows after local demand emerged in the afternoon session. The Hang Seng index finished 23.88 points off at 2,555.04.

BOMBAY: Share prices closed mixed on alternative bouts of speculative buying and selling. In trucks and cars, Telco shot up 18 rupees to 388 on rumours the government may soon clear the company's long-standing proposal to make Honda cars.

PARIS: The market opened the main floor session 0.03 per cent down in listless trading, with buyers holding back because of pre-election political uncertainty.

NEW YORK: Stocks showed little overall change while waiting for the trade deficit report. The Dow was around yesterday's close of 2,035.

ZURICH: Prices closed steady in moderately active trading, with advances more restrained ahead of tomorrow's US trade data.

Oil minister wants to increase Opec's market share

Nazer faces first test

BAHRAIN, March 16. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Hisham Nazer found out to his cost this week he too could influence oil markets.

His charismatic predecessor, veteran Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani, had a habit of talking markets up or down. But a remark by Nazer in Baghdad on Monday sent oil prices into a tailspin.

Oil industry analysts say the problems that haunted Yamani still stalk Saudi Arabia and Nazer now faces his first major test after 15 months in the oil minister's hot seat.

Drop

Nazer enjoyed an early honeymoon with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), engineering a price and output package to turn around a sagging market in late 1986.

But now prices have slid back to the same depressed level as when he first appeared on the scene.

The Middle East benchmark crude Dubai traded at \$12.85 in the spot market today, well down on the official \$17.42 price and close to the \$12.25 level seen on October 30, 1986 when Nazer took over from Yamani.

Oil industry sources said a price drop of 70 cents after Nazer ruled out an Opec output cut showed that as head of the Saudi oil industry he had the influence

to drive prices down.

But declining world oil demand and rising oil production in non-Opec countries have made Saudi Arabia virtually powerless to push prices up without harming its precarious economy.

A sellers' market which allowed Yamani to dictate Opec and world oil prices in the 1970s had turned into one for buyers by the early 1980s when Yamani's star began to fade.

The analysts said Nazer now faced very similar problems of glut and unpredictable markets that Yamani battled in his last days as oil minister.

"Nazer has long-term plans ... (he wants) to increase Opec's market share as world demand expands on stable Opec output and prices," said Peter Nicol of Chase Manhattan Securities in London.

Plans

Those plans include restructuring the Saudi oil industry and establishing a foothold in consumer markets.

"He is not going to give up the Saudi market share or campaign for an output cut as the leader of Opec," an oil industry executive said.

Under Yamani, Saudi Arabia was Opec's "swing producer," cutting output at times of market weakness to help prices recover. But Nazer has made clear Saudi

Arabia will not revert to the role that cost it billions of dollars in lost revenue.

As a swing producer Saudi oil production dropped as low as two million barrels per day (bpd), compared with its 10 million bpd capacity.

The analysts said Saudi Arabia was now keeping output to its Opec quota of 4,343,000 bpd and trying to protect its market share by selling oil at prices linked to the spot market, at least to some customers.

Production

"If they discount to everyone, the market will collapse. They are putting their unsold production in storage ... to sell whenever they find buyers," an oil industry executive said.

Oil industry sources said the market was shocked by Nazer's statement in Baghdad at a time when oil prices were firming on expectations of an output cut by Opec.

"It was an uncompromising and aggressive statement ... the Saudis will also pay heavily as their oil revenues will be hit," an oil industry executive said.

"A five per cent cut by Opec would have helped prices to recover more than 10 per cent," another oil executive said.

But Peter Nicol said the Saudis were also concerned oil prices could rise above Opec's \$18 a barrel benchmark.

Bacteria cocktail may hold key to boosting world oil reserves

CANBERRA, March 16. (Reuters): Cocktails of bacteria, sand and water kept in an oven in an Australian laboratory may hold the key to adding billions of barrels to world oil reserves.

The mixture is used in experiments that represent a major advance in attempts to extract large quantities of oil left behind by conventional recovery techniques, Australian scientists say.

Worldwide, only about a third of the oil known to be in wells can be recovered.

The problem is that oil is not found in huge underground lakes, but is instead trapped as droplets in capillaries of rock reservoirs.

Pressure

When an oil pipe penetrates the rock, water or gas pressure forces oil to the surface.

But most of the oil is left behind, usually because pressure is too low or the oil is trapped through surface tension created when oil and water meet.

"If you soak a sponge full of oil, then put the sponge under the tap, a lot of oil will wash out. But the sponge will still be fairly filthy," said Alan Sheehy, leading the research at the college of

advanced education here in the Australian capital.

"More oil will be released by using detergent to break the surface tension — the force that is holding the oil in the sponge," Sheehy told Reuters.

Scientists all over the world have been trying for several years to overcome the problem by harnessing bacteria that occur naturally in oil wells.

These bacteria produce a detergent-like substance that breaks the tension and frees the oil from the rock.

Early research projects involved pouring waste dairy products or raw sewage mixed with molasses down oil wells to feed the bacteria.

"The sewage idea actually freed quite significant amounts of oil, which in some ways set back research because it suggested it was quite a simple process," Sheehy said.

Research into the so-called microbiological enhanced oil recovery is also continuing in Canada, China, Romania, the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Australians believe they are ahead, with one scientist saying laboratory tests have

produced "quite marvellous responses".

They are confident their methods are commercially viable and plan to start field tests in April at the Alton Oil well in the Surat basin in the eastern state of Queensland.

Their method will cost less than one Australian dollar (71 US cents) a barrel and could raise "by many per cent" the amount of oil recoverable, they say.

"If we only bring up 0.1 per cent more oil in Australia, a comparatively insignificant amount, that would be worth about eight million dollars (\$5.6 million) per annum," Sheehy said.

Scientists have generally concentrated on altering the oil well environment to stimulate the bacteria.

Sheehy and his team are not prepared to disclose details of their process. But they say they have tackled the problem from the opposite direction, concentrating on discovering what makes bacteria establish themselves in oil wells in the first place.

The Australians do not use genetic engineering — implanting specific genes from one organism into another, effectively creating new lifeforms.

Joint insurance planned for Gulf carriers

MANAMA, March 16. (GNA): The executive chairman of Gulf Air, Ali Al Maleki, said today that the three GCC national carriers were planning to have joint insurance for their aircraft.

He said this step would strengthen their negotiating power with international insurance companies.

Al Maleki said this step was part of a plan to strengthen cooperation between Gulf Air, Saudi Airlines and Kuwait Airways Corporation.

Agreement



DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Paul Simon and his wife Jeanne react to the cheering crowd after the Illinois senator won the primary election on Tuesday. (Reuter wirephoto)



VICE-PRESIDENT George Bush waves to cheering supporters after a GOP victory on Tuesday in the Illinois primary. At left is Illinois Governor James Thompson, and right is Bush's daughter Dorothy. (Reuter wirephoto)



BATON-WIELDING Philippine policemen disperse student activists in front of the US Embassy in Manila on Tuesday. Activists are demanding the pullout of American bases in the country. (Reuter wirephoto)



MOURNERS comfort an injured woman after a gun and grenade attack on the funeral of three IRA guerrillas yesterday. Three people were killed and 23 were wounded in the attack. (Reuter wirephoto)



FRENCH Prime Minister Jacques Chirac (right) and Finance Minister Edouard Balladur brief journalists at the Hotel Matignon in Paris, moments after the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday. They confirmed that the government still expects to cut the budget deficit to around 115 billion francs this year and to 100 billion in 1989. (Reuter wirephoto)



WEST GERMAN Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (right) speaks with Julia Ramashoaia (left) and Joyce Mokgeel (centre) in his office yesterday. The two women, relatives of two of the Sharpeville Six who are scheduled to be hanged on Friday, were in Bonn to appeal for help in stopping the planned executions. (Reuter wirephoto)



A RECENT photograph of three-year-old Sulome, daughter of American hostage Terry Anderson, accompanied a message of love from her mother Madeline. Anderson, 40, the Middle East bureau chief of the Associated Press in Beirut was abducted on March 16, 1985. (Reuter wirephoto)



MOTHER THERESA, Nobel Peace Prize winner, receives flowers from children of the SOS Institutions in Hinterbrul, Austria, on Tuesday, during a brief visit to Austria. (Reuter wirephoto)



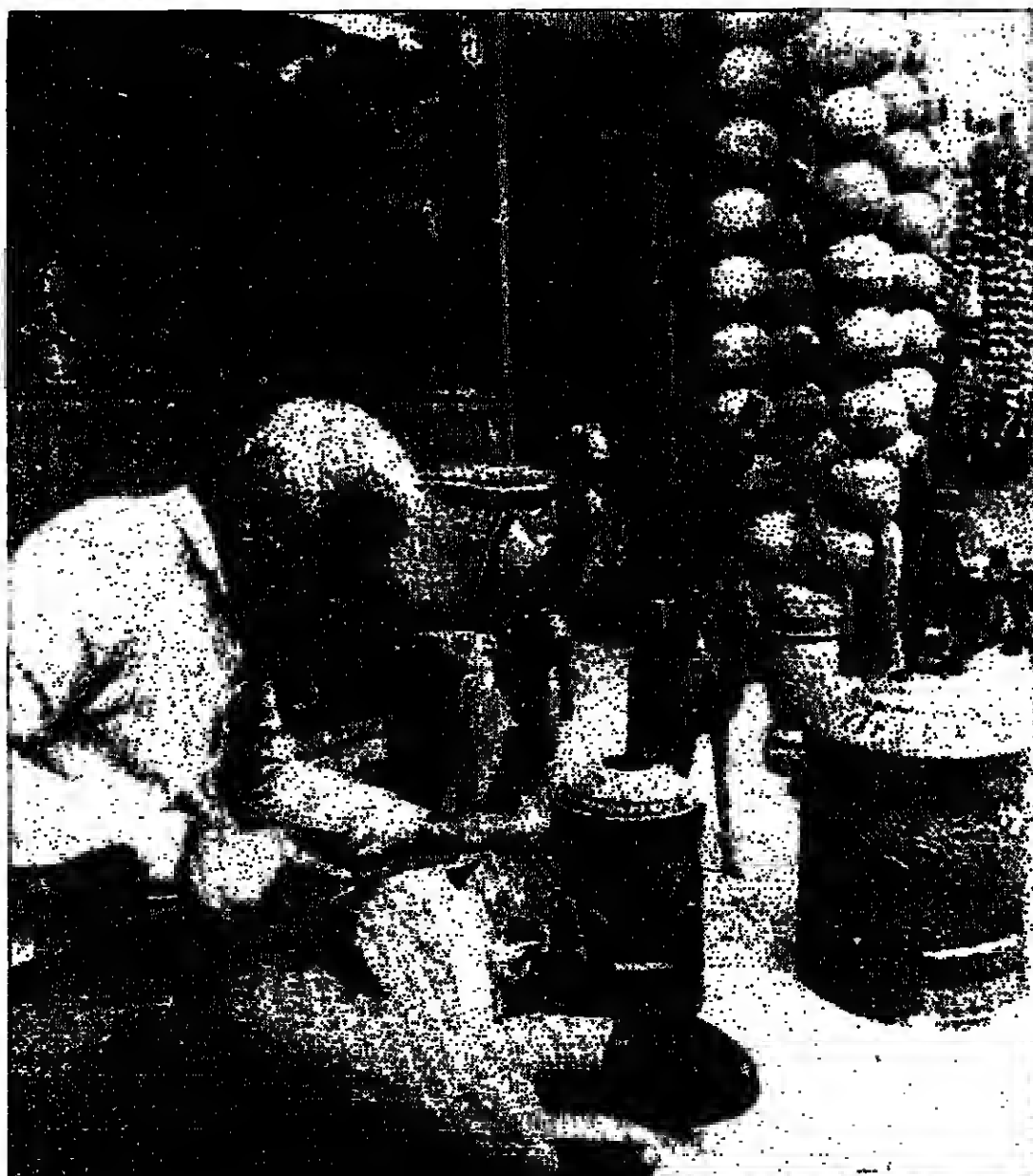
THE owner of this Volkswagen begins the task of digging it out of a large snow drift after heavy snowfall in the Bavarian mountains of Austria. (Reuter wirephoto)



ITALIAN Socialist party leader Bettino Craxi leaves Rome's Quirinale presidential palace after talks with President Cossiga on the formation of a new government yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



A MAN rushes his daughter out of the Social Security Hospital after it was tear gassed by police during rock throwing riots in Panama City on Tuesday. (Reuter wirephoto)



HUSSAM TURJUMAN, 55, overhauls a 150-year-old wooden mehbaj at the central Damascus handicraft market. Hussam, who has been making mehbajs and other wooden handicrafts, said the mehbaj, which was used by Arabs for more than three centuries to grind coffee, is no longer in use since the invention of electric grinders. People now buy them as a reminder of the past. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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SALWA, Block 6, Al Qurtuba Street, No. 320, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one kitchen, large dining room, private entrance, central A/C. Fully furnished, with tele. line. Tele. 5655565, 5636568. (AT6-41416-2)

BAYAN, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, central A/C with water and electricity. Rent KD240. Tele. Abbas, 2610471, 7.30 am - 9 pm, 4811992, 4 - 7 pm. (AT6-41418-3)

MISHREF, a villa, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, plus 3 rooms on the ground floor, with a garden. Rent KD400. Tele. 5389501, 2-4 pm only. (AT4-41395-6)

Available

IN Salwa, House 198, Block 7, behind Iran shop. Two big rooms with all facilities, for a family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50 each. Tele. 5611243. (AT2-41367-6)

QURTUBA, 2 rooms with kitchen, toilet and separate entrance. Rent KD110. Tala. Mrs Barretto, 2514331. (AT6-41410-3)

MAIDAN Hawalli, one room with separate bathroom for one Indian bachelor to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 14 and 15. Rent KD50. Tele. 5622760, after 2 pm. (AT6-41427-3)

IN Fahaheel, Al Hashan Commercial Complex, atop Safeway. One fully furnished CAC room with water and electricity for two bachelors or a couple. Bus 105, 109, 101. Rent KD75. Tele. Soma, 3928121, 9 am - 1 pm, 4 - 8.30 pm. (AT4-41398-3)

SHARQ, behind the Sharq fire station, for bachelors to share with an Indian family. Tele. 4837518, 9 am - 1 pm. (AT6-41430-3)

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street, behind Maiden Pharmacy, in a 2 bedroom flat for 2 bachelors with a Mangalorian family. Meals provided. Bus routes 14, 109, 30, 15, 19. Rent KD45 each. Tele. 4843988/9 ext 4184, 10 am - 4 pm. (AT6-41425-3)

SALMIYA, behind the fire station. One big independent room with a separate kitchen and water and electricity, for a family or two bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD60. Tele. Vipan Oberoi, 4740801, 7.30 am - 1 pm, 4.30 - 7.30 pm. (AT5-41402-3)

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OLDSMOBILE Cutlass Supreme Brougham 1984 (Aug), 2 doors, 64,000 km, in excellent condition. Tele. Mike, 4842988 ext. 4148, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT5-41401-3)

JAGUAR XJ6 1982, AC, 5-speed, white, dark leather interior, 40,000 km, Zayani maintained in showroom condition. KD2000 last price. Tele. 5631482. (AT6-41417-3)

TOYOTA Crown super saloon 1983, AC, fully automatic, white, registered Dec 1983. In excellent condition. Tele. 2461372 morning, 4334048 after 3 pm. (AT6-41426-2)

BMW 730, 1979 model, carburetor, automatic, full options, sunroof, Becker radio, white, in very good condition. KD1150 cash. Tele. 4885867. (AT4-41396-3)

SAAB 900 turbo, 16 valve, 85 model, silver, in excellent condition. Highest offer. Tele. H. Beed, 2413200 ext 757, 12 - 2 pm. (AT4-41394-3)

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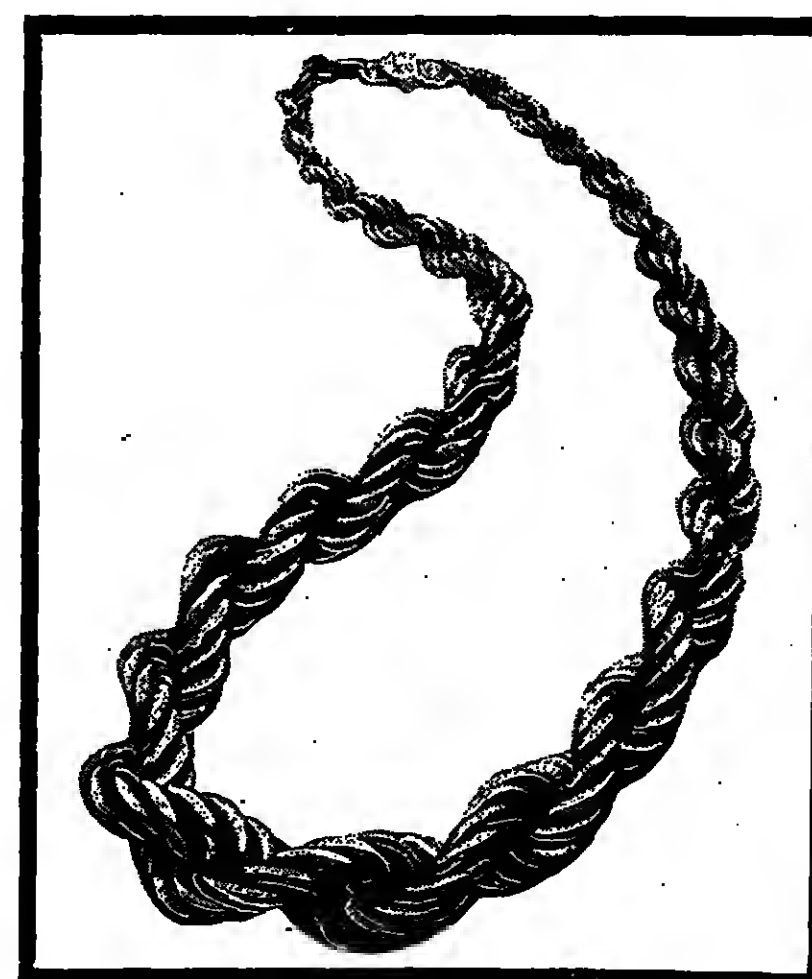
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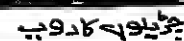
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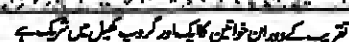
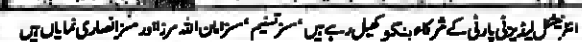
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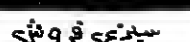
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میں ہوئی۔ ایکسٹنشن میں ان کو روپ حملہ واقعہ اور انہیں
دیئے جانے والے سڑک کی سرکاری سے شروع ہو چکا۔ کرن
طائفی حملہ مشرق کی بڑی لڑائی میں جن میں جبکہ دوسری
واقعے میں "سفر" میں پہلے اور دوسرے میں روپ
اقتدار کے لئے جوئی میں کھڑے ہوئے کہ کیا یہ خواتین
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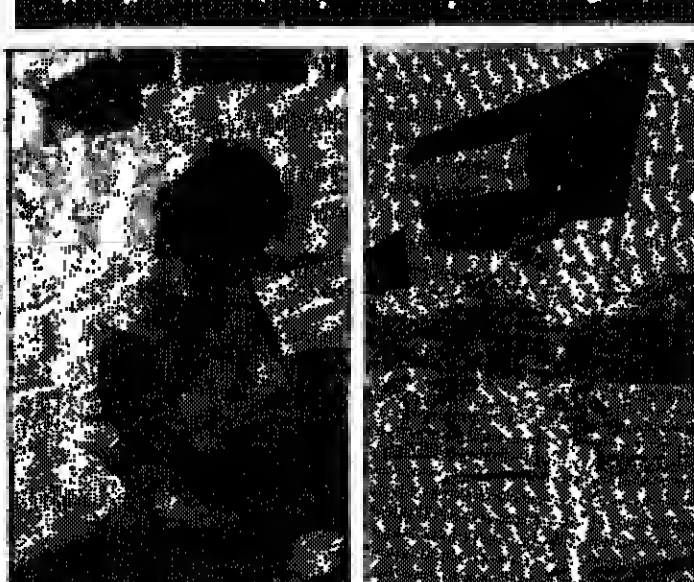
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دنیا بھر میں گاہر نیچے کی تیس سو سے زیادہ اقسام ہیں،

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طباء
کا
تجربہ
مقابلہ
اور
انعامات

[illegible]

۵۔ قرآن پاک کس کئی خط میں لکھا گیا؟
۶۔ ہائے "ا" حضرت جبکہ سے جرت کر کے
مدح کرتے؟ آپ نے کتنے مرد حکمت انھیں
فرادہ کر کے تلاذ؟
۷۔ کیا آپ ان شاعر کا نام دے سکتے ہیں جنوں
سب سے پہلے قرآن مجید میں لکھا گیا؟
۸۔ واقعہ حراج اہی مسلم اقتدار سے (کیک ف)
ایک صحیفہ کی بیان کیجیے۔
۹۔ دورِ حاضر (قرآنیاد پاکستان)
قرآنیاد پاکستان کسے "ب" مکمل کر لیں
نیز قرآنیاد پاکستان کا نام اختتام ہوتا ہے؟
۱۰۔ اب تک پاکستان کے کتنے وزیر اعظم اور
صدر رہے ہیں؟ جہتیب دیوانہ ہاتھ تھے؟

۱۔ پاکستان کا کل پر عمل درآمد کی بنیادی سرکاری زبان
کیا ہے؟ نیز پاکستان کے قومی شاعر، قومی پہل کا نام
کون ہے۔

۲۔ کلر پاکستان کے تیز رفتاری ماہر مل کیسے ہوا؟

۳۔ "مرا ختم" سے مراد کیا ہے؟ پاکستان اور
اس کی حکومت کی کہانیاں سننے والے سلاطین
جو اب کیا ہیں؟ کہاں کہاں سلاطین کیسے؟

۴۔ قزاق اور دلاور کو قزاق اور پاکستان کا نام
سے پہلے کیا تھا؟

۵۔ طائر اقبال کے کئی سے دو بہترین شعر تحریر
کجیجیے

۶۔ نشی اعلیٰ

۷۔ متعلقہ نکتوں سے متعلق تمام اسکول اور کالجوں

[illegible]

سوا خرافات علی بیٹ

امینہ احمد خدیجہ بی بی علی بیٹ

۵۔ تمام جوابات درست ہونے کا صورت م۔

کرم کھٹے پارے ۲۰۱۲ء

عالم مصطفیٰ

۱۔ نیٹ کھٹ میں سب سے زیادہ رتوخس کھلائی ہے
کیا ہے؟

۲۔ ۱۹۸۳ء کا لڑک سب سے ملک نے کیا تھا؟

۳۔ نیٹ کھٹ میں سب سے زیادہ کھٹ کس نے؟

۴۔ ۱۹۸۸ء کا لڑک کس نے؟

۵۔ نیٹ کھٹ میں سب سے زیادہ رتوخس کھلائی
تھا ہے؟

۶۔ نیٹ کھٹ میں سب سے زیادہ پتھریاں کس نے
کیاں؟

۷۔ کرم کھٹ یا ل کھٹان کتھا ہے؟

۸۔ ملانے کھٹ میں سب سے زیادہ رتوخس کھلائی ہے؟

۹۔ ملانے کھٹ میں سب سے زیادہ دیکھیں کس نے
کیا؟



لوگ اس کے متعلق کھٹ میں ماسی دیکھی ہے اسے

اس کی دل کی کار پر ترقی پانا دل چاہی اور نہ تھی اس لیے
ابھر کر تیرا سنا ہے کوئی دل نیست چلی۔

۱۔ میری سحر (۱۳۵۷)
۲۔ بہار
۳۔ دیسٹ مائز
۴۔ دیکھ بھری (۸۸)
۵۔ آسٹریا
۶۔ سنیل گارگر (۱۰۱۲۳)
۷۔ سنیل گارگر (۳۳)
۸۔ شام کا گارگر
۹۔ ریجنس ریف (۱۹۸۵)

ایکلاوس سحر کش کے

۱۰۔ ونشن ڈیوڈ



الحمد لله
بني له قاده

سے پانوں کی دھنکی اسگر میں اور شاہے انشاں نے بھی

اسی سے منگ لیگی ہے۔
آج کل مجھ سے رکھ لی گئی ہے ہر ایک کی توجہ اور

ضرغیاں جو دس

ایک شخص نے مریض کے قدم کو خیر کو خدا کا رکھے چہ مرغان دس دس کہیں روتی کر دیجی۔ قدم کا بغیر جب مریض کے کر اسے ہے۔ پہنچا تو کان مقل تھا تو اس نے کان کے لمبے مریض مرغان چھوڑ دی اور ایک

[illegible]

نبتے کے صوف پر ط

۵۔ قرآن پاک سے کتنی چیزیں ہیں؟
۶۔ بتائیے، آنحضرت جب مکہ سے ہجرت کر کے مدینہ کے آپ تک پہنچے تو وہ کب تک انھیں مدینہ فرود کر کے ٹھہرا رہے تھے؟
۷۔ کیا آپ ان شاعر شاعرین کے تھے جنہوں نے آپ کو صلہ فتنہ سب کا نام دیا؟
۸۔ واقعہ حراج اربعہ کی معلوم اقتدار سے (کیک) ایک پی پی پی کیا ہے۔
۹۔ دوسرا ضرور (قراداد پاکستان)
۱۰۔ قراداد پاکستان کے سبب کیاں ہیں؟
۱۱۔ قراداد پاکستان کا کیا نام ہے؟
۱۲۔ ایک ایک پاکستان کے لئے وزیر مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔
۱۳۔ ایک ایک پاکستان کے لئے وزیر مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔

۱۱۔ پاکستان کا کردار، نقل و آمدی، ممبری، زبان
کیا ہے؟ پھر پاکستان کے قومی شاعر، قومی پہل کا نام
دے۔

۱۲۔ تقریباً پاکستان کے تیزی میں کتنے ہیں؟

۱۳۔ پاکستان میں کتنے ممبر ہیں؟ پاکستان اور
اس کی حکومت کئی کبھی سے کتنے سالوں کا
جواب دے گا؟ کاز کسک پھر کتنے سالوں کا ہے؟

۱۴۔ قزاق اور دلاور کو قزاق اور پاکستان کا نام
سے پہلے کسے کہتے تھے؟

۱۵۔ علامہ اقبال کے کئی سے دو بہترین شعر تحریر
کجے۔

نثری عمل

۱۔ علامہ اقبال کے کتنے مضمون اور کولوں اور کالوں

[illegible]

Botham charged with assault and misconduct

PERTH, Australia, March 16, (AP) English Test cricketer Ian Botham was charged with assault and misconduct after an alleged incident on a flight to Perth from Brisbane today, Australian Federal Police said.

Botham, a member of the Queensland state cricket team in Perth to meet Western Australia in the final of the domestic Sheffield Shield competition, could also face disciplinary action by the Queensland Cricket Association (QCA).

Regulations

He was expected to be released on bail from east Perth police station later today, Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported.

Police said the two assault charges were under the crimes act and the disorderly conduct charge was under Australian Air Navigation Act regulations.

AAP reported that Botham had been taken to Federal Police headquarters in Perth for questioning.

Coffrey Court, state manager of the domestic Ansett Airlines, said several passengers complained about the behaviour of the Queensland cricket team and that the complaints were forwarded to Federal Police.

AAP said police interviewed and took statements from several passengers today.

Botham and Queensland captain Allan Border both refused to comment on the incident.

QCA secretary Grantley Evans has called for a report into the incident, saying Botham might have violated an Australian Cricket Board code-of-behaviour regulation.

He said the regulation warned that a player must not engage in a public act of misconduct or publicly public behaviour while representing Australia or his state.

Involve

Evans said the report would be forwarded to the QCA's state commissioner, Ron Archer, for a hearing and determination.

The hearing, which will involve Evans, Archer and Border, will be held when the team arrives back in Brisbane.

Border, who sat two seats away from Botham on the flight, appeared slightly stunned by the charges when he returned to his hotel with coach Ray Reynolds this evening.

"I am very surprised that it has gone this far," Border said. "We will inform the players, but I don't want them worrying about it. They have enough on their minds. Ian has taken it fairly hard."

Border said the incident would not jeopardise Botham's appearance in the final.

Sri Lankans name squad for Sharjah

COLOMBO, March 16, (Reuters) The Sri Lankan cricket selectors have named a 14-man squad for the three-nation Sharjah Cup tournament which starts on March 25.

Thirteen of the party went on the recent tour of Australia, the three missing players being Hashan Tillekeratne and Athula Samarasekera, who are now touring Zimbabwe with the Sri Lanka 'B' side, and Sri Lankan Jeganathan.

New Zealand and India are the other two teams competing in Sharjah.

The Sri Lanka squad: R.S. Madugala (captain), A. Ranasinghe, R.S. Mahanama, D.S.B. Kuruppu, A.P. Gurusingha, P.A. de Silva, J.R. Ratnayake, R.G. de Alwis, G.F. Labrooy, H.C.P. Ramanayake, K.N. Amalean, S.D. Anurasi, Asoka de Silva, S.M.S. Kulperuma.

New Goans and Strikers reach final

NEW GOANS and United Goan Strikers reached the final of the Kuwait Malayalee Samajam Trophy football tournament, sponsored by Sana Household, with victories over Vandana and Rising Boys respectively at the Fahaheel grounds on Tuesday.

The first game between Vandana and New Goans was a very closely fought game and was decided in a penalty shootout.

Penalty

There were few anxious moments for both the teams. New Goans failed to score in the last minute of the normal time when the ball rolled in front of the Vandana goal and the New Goans players failed to tap it in.

After the teams failed to reach a decision in the extra time, the game went into a penalty shootout. New Goans scored on all of their five penalty shots while Vandana missed one.

PAKISTAN LOSE SECOND ONE-DAY GAME

Ambrose fires W. Indies to victory

ST JOHNS, Antigua, March 16, (Reuters) West Indies, with their emerging fast bowler Curtley Ambrose again playing a decisive part, beat Pakistan by five wickets in the second one-day international yesterday.

Ambrose captured four for 35 and was effectively supported by fellow Antiguan Winston Benjamin, who took three for 27, to set up a decisive victory that gave West Indies a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Imran Khan's Pakistan were put in to bat and restricted to 166 for nine in 46 overs. West Indies, captained for the first time by Gordon Greenidge while Viv Richards recovers from an operation, swept home at 167 for five with 8.5 overs to spare.

Reacher Phil Simmons, with a belligerent 53, and Greenidge put on 86 in 18 overs, and although five wickets fell relatively cheaply, the target was reached comfortably.

West Indies' success was achieved essentially on the strength of their four-pronged pace attack in which Ambrose and Benjamin were the outstanding performers, to the delight of their adoring home crowd.

Ambrose, whose four for 39 on his international debut helped West Indies win the opening game in Kingston last Saturday, again struck telling blows when he shared the new ball with



Simmons gave W. Indies a good start

Patrick Patterson here.

Patterson made the initial breakthrough in the fifth over when Rameez Raja, after hitting two successive fours, lifted a delivery to mid-wicket.

In the next over, Ambrose bowled Mudassar Nazar with a full-length delivery, and soon had Salim Malik caught at slip

off an outswinger. When Ejaz Ahmed was caught at forward short leg off Benjamin, Pakistan were reeling at 40 for four.

Javed Miandad and Imran put on 32 before Benjamin induced Miandad to edge to wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon after making a patient 24.

Half the side were out for 72

off 25 overs but, not for the first time in his illustrious career, Imran influenced a revival in which 91 runs were added from the 21 further overs bowled before time ran out. Pakistan's captain made a workmanlike 53 off 101 balls, including three fours.

When West Indies launched their reply, Simmons played in typically aggressive fashion and outscored Greenidge. He reached his 50 off 46 deliveries with nine fours but was shortly afterwards, edging a delivery from Mudassar into his stumps.

After his departure, two wickets fell rapidly. Greenidge became the first international victim of medium-pace Hafiz Shahid when he was caught at mid-on by Imran trying to hit over the top.

Richie Richardson, also trying to force the pace, was caught at deep backward square off Mudassar.

Imran, who was smashed for 20 runs in two overs at the start of the innings, returned to dismiss Gus Logie and Carlisle Best. But Carl Hooper and Dujon knocked off the remaining 26, Hooper sealing the win with a cover-driven four.

Benjamin was named Man of the Match.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN
Mudassar Nazar b Ambrose 4

Rameez Raja c Hooper b Patterson 14
Salim Malik c Greenidge b Ambrose 0
Javed Miandad c Dujon b Benjamin 53

Ejaz Ahmed c Simmons b Benjamin 6
Imran Khan c b Ambrose 53
Naved Aslam b Benjamin 24
Salim Younis run out 24
Wasim Akram c Simmons b Ambrose 18

Hafiz Shahid not out 7
Salim Jaffer not out 2
Extras (lb-2 nb-3 w-7) 12
Total (nine wickets—46 overs) 166

Fall of wickets: 1-20 2-21 3-24 4-40 5-72 6-78 7-118 8-153 9-162.

Bowling: Patterson 8-0-37-1 (3nb 2w), Ambrose 10-2-35-4 (2w), Benjamin 10-1-27-3 (2w), Walsh 10-1-25-0 (1w), Hooper 8-0-40-0.

WEST INDIES

G. Greenidge c Imran b Shahid 35
P. Simmons b Mudassar 54
R. Richardson c Miandad b Mudassar 12

C. Best lbw b Imran 17
A. Logie c Ejaz b Imran 8
C. Hooper not out 21
J. Dujon not out 21

Extras (lb-1 w-3 nb-5) 9
Total (five wickets—37.1 overs) 167
Fall of wickets: 1-86 2-104 3-106 4-124 5-141.

Did not bat: W. Benjamin, C. Walsh, P. Patterson, C. Ambrose.

Bowling: Imran 7-1-38-2 (3nb 2w), Akram 6-1-21-0 (1nb), Jaffer 8.1-0-36-0 (2nb), Shahid 9-0-41-1, Mudassar 7-1-30-2.

Result: West Indies won by five wickets.

Evert routs Moulton for 2nd round

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, March 16, (UPI) Second-seeded Chris Evert defeated Alycia Moulton 6-0, 6-0 in 39 minutes last night to advance to the second round of the \$2.1 million Lipton International Players championship.

Evert's game was sharp, while Moulton's usually tough service game failed her.

Better "I played well," said Evert. "I was able to get going and the cold weather didn't really bother me. Alycia hasn't played much lately and it showed. She has had better nights I'm sure."

Robert Seguso, whose wife Carling Bassett gave birth to their first child, Holden John Seguso Monday night, also posted a first-round victory. The new father had been up with his wife most of the night and

arrived just before his match against Horacio de la Pena. Without a chance to warm up, he defeated the Argentinian 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

"Actually the match was pretty trivial compared to what we have gone through the past 24 hours," said Seguso. "Carling had her labour induced and had a pretty tough time of it, but now she's fine and so is the baby. Winning here just makes this a real special day."

Also yesterday, second-seeded Jimmy Connors had little trouble defeating Broderick Dyke of Australia 6-2, 6-2, 6-0 and third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina defeated Helen Klesci of Canada 6-3, 6-1.

Other top women's seeds advancing included fourth-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Australia, who defeated Vicki

Nelson-Dunbar 6-1, 6-0, fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, who beat Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand 7-6 (7-4), 6-1, and sixth seed Claudia Kohde-Kisch of West Germany, who stopped Marianne Werdel 6-4, 6-1.

Defending men's champion and third seed Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia had a tough time with George Bezenec, but advanced with 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 6-4 win. Other seeds advancing were fifth-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Dan Cassidy, seventh-seeded Andres Jaray of Sweden, with a 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Thierry Champion of France, and eighth seed Martin Jaito of Argentina with a 4-6, 6-2, 6-0, 6-3 victory over Barry Moor of South Africa.

Connors, who said some

players may not be in shape to play Lipton's five-set format this early in the year, claimed he played a solid match against Dyke.

"I hadn't practiced here before my match, but I hit the ball pretty well and got used to the surroundings here," he said. "The wind was a factor, but I was able to pretty well do what I wanted to do out there. It was a good opening match."

Sabatini, who beat Steffi Graf and Chris Evert in winning the Virginia Slims of Florida last week, crushed Klesci by taking 10 of the final 12 games in the match.

"I'm still very happy about beating Chris and Steffi last week," said Sabatini. "I didn't celebrate too much though. I was out practicing for this tournament yesterday."

McEnroe plans to return in April

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., March 16, (Reuters) American tennis star John McEnroe yesterday dismissed rumours of his early retirement and said that he plans to return to tournament competition at the Grand Prix event in Tokyo beginning April 11.

"I am not going to quit. I have every intention of returning to the circuit," McEnroe said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles, where he has begun practising.

"Any reports of me retiring are premature and totally incorrect," McEnroe said.

McEnroe, currently 15th in the world, has not played a tournament since the US Open in September, where he received a 60-day suspension for his unsportsmanlike behaviour.

Since serving the suspension, McEnroe has remained out of tournament competition with a chronic back problem. He last played an exhibition in January, where he lost to Soviet Andrei Chesnokov.

Speculation that the 29-year-old McEnroe would not return to competition began when he withdrew from tournaments in Lyon, France, Philadelphia and Milan, Italy, in February.

McEnroe said that he would not return to tournament play until he had sufficiently recovered.

"I don't want to come back until I feel 100 per cent. I played too often and too soon (after injury) in the past," said McEnroe.

World record

MOSCOW, March 16, (Reuters) Soviet swimmer Igor Polyanski yesterday set a world record of 55.17 seconds for the men's 100-metre backstroke, the Tass news agency reported.

Frost routs Thygesen in opener

LONDON, March 16, (Reuters) Defending champion Morten Frost reminded the powerful Asians they will not have it all their own way by leading a Danish advance into the second round when the All-England Badminton Championships began today.

Frost and compatriots Michael Kjeldsen, Jens Peter Nierhoff and Ib Frederiksen all won their opening matches to serve notice that European badminton remains a force to be reckoned with.

With most major tournaments now played in Asia — where the Asians have the advantage of familiarity with the heat and humidity — the All-England Championships offer the Europeans a chance to put the record straight.

Trouncing

Frost, the top seed who is chasing his fifth title in seven years, began with a 15-3 15-1 trouncing of compatriot Jacob Thygesen in just 25 minutes.

Kjeldsen and Nierhoff, joint fifth seeds, also won in straight games. Kjeldsen outplaying fellow Dane bent Swinningsen 15-11 15-5 and Nierhoff eliminating Sompol Kuksemitj of Thailand 15-6 18-14.

Frederiksen, a seed in previous years but not this time, defeated Ulf Johansson of Sweden 15-7 15-13. With English third seed Steve Baddeley withdrawing because of flu, Frederiksen is well placed to advance to the last eight in Baddeley's section.

The rest of the opening and second rounds in both singles events were being played later today.

Reach

Eddy Kurniawan of Indonesia, the third seed who lost to Frost in last year's semifinals, survived a testing opener against Chan Chi Chai of Hong Kong, winning 18-15 15-6 after trailing 11-8 in the opening game.

"I had some problems with the wind in the arena," Kurniawan said in reference to the "draft" which is a feature of most badminton venues. "It was blowing from one end and I had to get used to it."

"I have no injuries and everything is all right now. I hope to reach the last four again," added Kurniawan, who reached the final of the Grand Prix championship in Hong Kong in January.



Vivian (left) and Gilbert: good performances

Dash beat Golden Stars

DASH XI (Dar Al Shifa Hospital) beat Golden Stars cricketers by eight runs at the Church ground on Tuesday.

Golden Stars, after winning the toss, put Dash XI to bat. Dash XI put on 106 runs for the loss of six wickets. Dash skipper Vivian scored 32, Gilbert an unbeaten 41 and Ignatius 20.

Golden Stars, in reply were not

Wright's ton takes Kiwis to one-day win over England

NAPIER, New Zealand, March 16, (Reuters) A fine century by captain John Wright led New Zealand to a seven-wicket victory over England in a one-day cricket match at McLean Park today.

The win cut England's lead in the four match series to 2-1 and set the stage for an interesting final game in Auckland on Saturday.

Playing in a carnival atmosphere in front of 10,000 cheering spectators, Wright scored a scorching 101, which included 15 boundaries.

Caught

He battered all the bowlers and was especially severe on John Emburey. New Zealand's tormentor in the first matches.

Wright was finally caught off Emburey's howling by Tim Robinson, but the off-spinner's seven overs cost 47 runs.

Wright received good support from fellow left-hander Mark Greatbatch. His 64 not out steered New Zealand to the win after Wright was out.

The pair came together after Andrew Jones fell to the bowling of Paul Jarvis for 16. Together they put on 109.

England had looked set to post a large total after recovering from a disastrous start when Wright won the toss and sent them in to bat.

Bill Athey was brought into the side in place of the ill Martyn Moxon but he was run-out second ball by Chris Broad before he had faced the bowler.

Broad and Tim Robinson then routed the bowlers on a pitch that played fast and true.

Neither batsman was afraid to loft the ball, especially while the 15-over fielding restrictions applied, and it was something of a surprise when Robinson was caught for 36 by wicketkeeper Ian Smith off Martin Snedden's bowling when the score was 80.

Mike Gatting sent in Phillip DeFreitas to put further pressure on New Zealand and the big hitter was reasonably successful

in his attack. He took three wickets in his 10 overs.

Snedden, who was out for 10, was caught by Robinson off DeFreitas's bowling. DeFreitas took 3-0-14-0.

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AL HAJRI AIMS FOR THIRD VICTORY

Kuwait International Rally starts today

By Gail Seery

THERE is no such thing as an easy rally, according to former Middle East Champion Saeed Al Hajri. "A rally is never easy. I must work hundred per cent — myself and my team — to do well and win the rally — if I have luck."

Al Hajri snatched a few moments to speak to the Arab Times between practice sessions yesterday, and was clearly relaxed and confident for today's Kuwait International Rally. "Some say it's a small and easy rally," he continued, "but this is also a very fast rally." He felt that the need to travel at such high speeds put more pressure on him as a driver, and on the car. "It's fast and maybe a little dangerous," he said. However "it's the same as last year, the Kuwait rally is the fastest rally of the championship."

Disposal
Al Hajri will be driving a powerful Rothmans-backed Audi Quattro in this rally, and has the traction advantages of 4wd as well as high speed at his disposal. He makes no bones about his aims. "I am here to take

Start times for various stages

THE Kuwait International Rally will start from the SAS Hotel carpark adjacent to the clock restaurant at 1 pm, under the patronage of Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah. The cars will drive along the 6th ring road to the Salmi road. The first stage is situated just beyond the camel market on the Salmi road. This stage will start at 14.18 pm, and features fast and bumpy straights with a very rough area at the finish.

The second stage is Khuwaissat, and is a rough stage. This starts at 14.46 pm. The third stage is Doha and is similar to the second. This will open at 15.04. There will then be a regrouping/service area at Entertainment City for two hours. The cars will then negotiate the three stages once more in the dark, arriving back at SAS Hotel at around 10 pm.

Longest
On day two the stages are in the Sulabiya and Maqwa areas. The first stage of the day is East Sulabiya, which starts at 9.40, 11.11 and 14.37. Then the cars go to Maqwa, the first car starting the stage at 10.07, 11.38 and 15.01. Then it's on to Sulabiya, the longest stage of the rally, which starts at 10.25, 11.56 and 15.19.

The cars will have their main service at Entertainment City from 12.37 onwards, and will be back at the SAS Hotel for the finish at 5.15 pm.

An official rally programme will be available at the rally start, or from the SAS Hotel after 11.30 am, and this has full details of all the times and where to find the stages. Always remember to follow basic safety rules, and take water into the desert with you.



Harry Carr: ready for the rally.

my third win in Kuwait. I want to win every rally I do. I wouldn't do a rally for fun any more. There is so much more to worry about at this level, and I have to keep my sponsors happy."

"I will push from the start," he continued. "After two stages we will be able to see what Mohammed Bin Sulayem is doing."

"Michel Saleh is quick and will stay with us," Al Hajri had said earlier that first and second positions were already booked for the whole season. However he admitted that Saleh has the potential to upset this.

Not that Saleh has any doubt that it is so. He has long been renowned as a fast driver, but one who has suffered problems in the past, and he is well aware that whilst he might have the ability to challenge the other two, his car and team is not as well supported financially as either Al Hajri or Sulayem's. Two of his main sponsors are the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Royal Jordan Airlines.

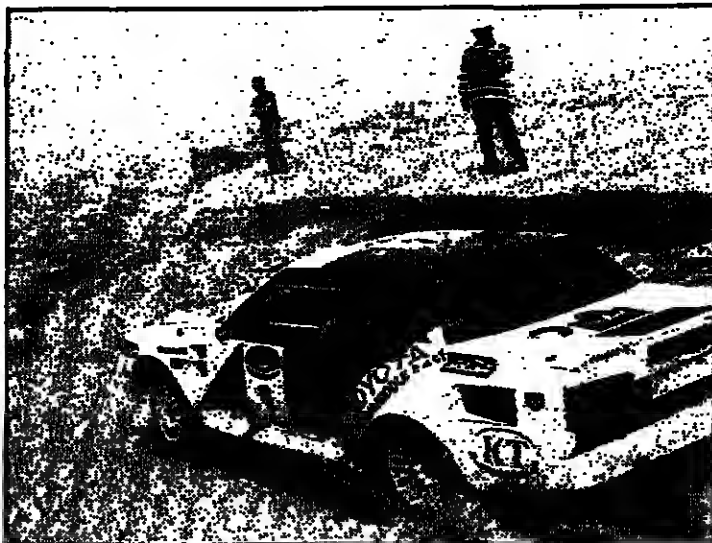
"I won't try to win. I will push at the start, but if they are going crazy I will cool it and try to wait behind in case one makes a mistake. One thing is certain: I have them worried," Saleh said.

A major problem could be the car. "One of my mechanics had an accident in Germany, and I have three only. With the Fisa difficulties there has been no chance to rebuild the car since Doha," Saleh added.

Saleh is no stranger to the Kuwait International, which he won in 1984 — the same year as his new navigator, Ottmar Lange made his rally debut. He has also been Kuwait champion twice. "I know this rally better than either of them," he said.

"The stages are OK, but it would have been better to do the ones on the first day more than twice. That long break in the middle is a problem. The people at the front have worked 10 years to get there, so what if they have a small advantage?"

Saleh has no doubt as to what



Sulayem during last year's rally.

will happen in the rally. "The young people will have no chance to catch the three of us. At the end of the day there will be three groups, us, the other Group B cars, and everybody else. There will be a big gap between the first group and the rest." Saleh looked back to the days when Kuwait was a much tougher rally. "We started at lunchtime and finished the first leg at lunchtime the following day."

Saleh, unlike Hajri, who said that the day lost through official problems was not a problem, was bitter. "We hope they will check properly next time, before they make us waste a day."

Ottmar Lange, Saleh's co-driver, explained his decision to co-drive to the Arab Times. "It was a last moment decision, to see once how it is done on the other side of the seat — something I hadn't done before. The Audi Quattro's power interested me and I wanted to understand where the gap was between our cars and theirs."

"I know now that we have been banging our heads against a brick wall. There is no way you can beat these cars with conventional cars. I now understand the meaning of Group B rallying."

"Things happen so much faster. I can't imagine a private entrant could ever manage to support one of these cars."

"Michel is definitely a top driver — his car control is good, as is his judgement as a driver." Lange now finds himself having to get used to his new role as navigator, and he continued, "I am more scared about me making mistakes, through not being used to the speed and misleading him into mistakes."

The pair have had little opportunity to practise, especially with the earlier start problems. "We're practising in the Manta, so again we have the problems of adjustment. The Manta is by no means a slow car, but it's not in the same league as the Audi."

One thing has now become very clear to Lange, one of Kuwait's top drivers, who has not competed since last year's International. "The championship is not run for Group B cars. You have to be up to group B car standards."

Gap
Lange doesn't expect to win. "We are not heavily sponsored and can't overdo it. I don't think the gap between us will be too big. We are capable of being up front, but it is unwise to get into a fight with the front runners without support."

Lange feels he has learned a great deal about the difference between the factory cars and the Group B cars driven by drivers like himself. "We are not comparing apples and oranges, we are comparing apples and potatoes," he said with a grin.

Mohammed Bin Sulayem and navigator Roman Morgan were out practising all day yesterday trying to make up the lost time.

Abbas Al Mousawi told the Arab Times that he was most disappointed to find that the top seeds were back in the race. "I thought it was my chance to win," he said. "I thought it was a chance to go out and drive and stand a chance of winning. It did my heart good, but that's over now." His words were echoed by his co-navigator, Mubarak Al Hajri, now navigating for

Saeed's younger brother, who was to start the rally second.

Closer to home there is a separate struggle taking place within the rally. This is the tussle developing between Tareq Al Wazzan, backed by Marlboro and Ahmed Al Hilal of Rothmans, for the National Championship. There are 48 points to be won here and both Hilal and Wazzan are determined to find themselves leading the championship by a comfortable margin at the end of this rally.

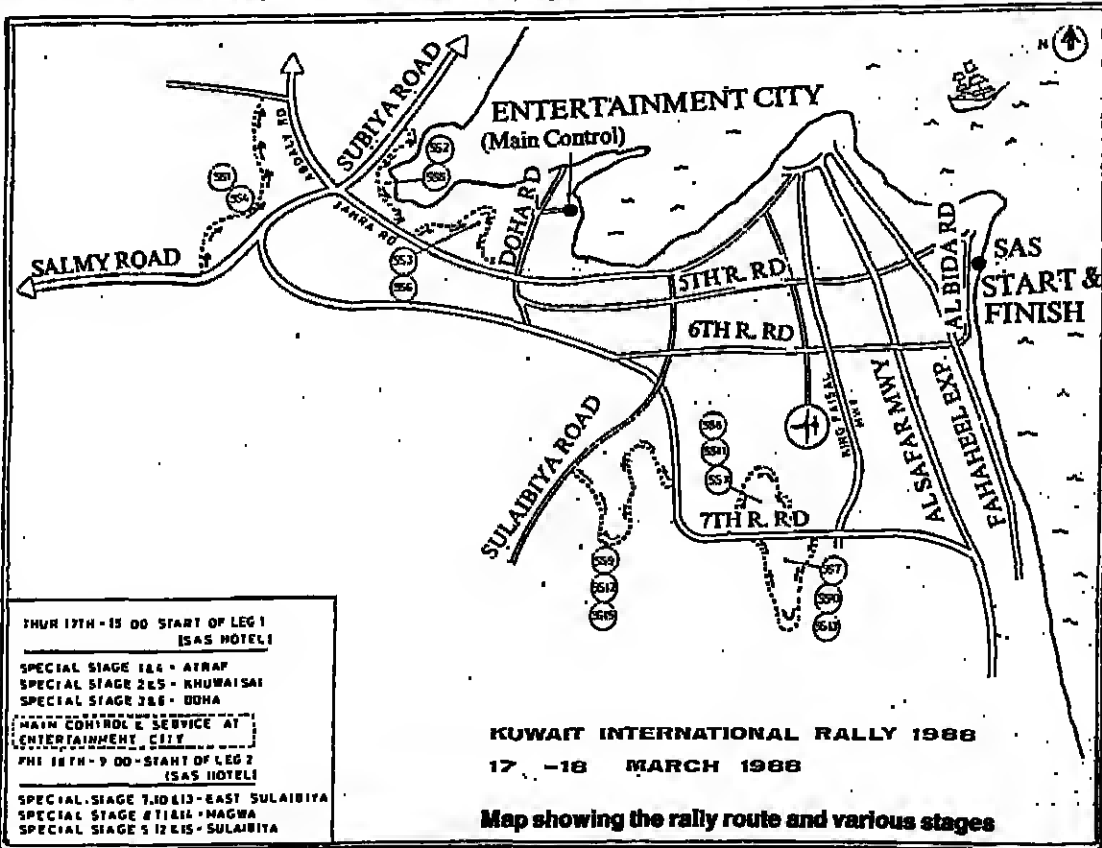
Nor are they the only ones out to be the first Kuwaiti team home. Miskulig is aiming to prove himself, along with navigator Klaus Schwingenshloegl. They will be making a strong bid for National Championship points in the Nissan 240RS.

Mohammed Al Hussein had been having a few problems with his car, but hoped that he would be able to put in a good run for top points. He is now backed by Commercial Bank, and sees this event as the second of a long season.

Good
Ghazi Al Zafri said his car was going well. "We tested it and everything is good, especially on the humps. I need one thing — luck." Ahmed Al Zafri had to work through the night to repair the gearbox on the Opel Ascona, and Harry Carr was also having gearbox problems. Indeed, gearboxes are definitely suffering on this event. Younis Ali, the highest placed novice in the last local rally had similar problems and doubted whether his car would be able to complete the event.

Denim sponsored husband and wife team Tareq and Khuloud Alyan will be aiming for seventh position, in the tiny Daihatsu Charade which did so well in last year's rally. A second husband and wife team is Al Syara editor Faez Chihab and wife Hanan. Chihab is an ex-national champion, and came third in the last local rally.

Map showing the rally route and various stages



SPORTS BRIEFS

Quaid-e-Millat take on Crown

QUAID-E-MILLAT Cricket Club meet Crown Cricket Club in the final of the Pak-Sarhad Cricket Tournament at the Airport-Millat ground tomorrow. The match will start at 9.00 am.

Iraq and Bahrain triumph

RIYADH, March 16, (Reuters): The Iraqi soccer squad beat Saudi Arabia 2-0 (half time 0-0) today in the seven-nation Gulf Football Cup. In the second match Bahrain beat Qatar 1-0.

'Tex' to defend European title

PARIS, March 16, (Reuters): Thomas 'Tex' Nkalankete of France will defend his European light-welterweight boxing title against Britain's Lloyd Christie and Wasquehal on April 8, the French Boxing Federation said yesterday.

Soccer trainer charged with death threats

MARSEILLE, France, March 16, (Reuters): A former coach for French First Division soccer club Marseille was charged yesterday with making death threats against his old boss, police said. Yugoslav Zarko Olarevic, trainer at Marseille from 1984 to 1985, was suspected of having hired two men to intimidate club manager Jean-Pierre Bernes last year.

Moroccan tycoon rewards national team

MOHAMMEDIA, Morocco, March 16, (Reuters): A wealthy Moroccan industrialist has presented the national soccer team with a reward of 300,000 dirhams (\$375,000) for their performance at the Mexico World Cup finals in 1986.

Madjar out for two more weeks

VALENCIA, Spain, March 16, (Reuters): Algerian soccer international Rabah Madjar, injured three weeks ago, has started training but will not play for at least two more weeks, a spokesman for Spanish club Valencia said today.

Philippine golfers lead Open

JAKARTA, March 16, (Reuters): Mario Siadine of the Philippines, driving superbly and sinking a series of long putts, shared the first round lead in the Indonesian Open golf championship today with compatriot Rudy Labares.

Cameroun to meet Nigeria

RABAT, March 16, (Reuters): Nigeria's sharpshooting "Green Eagles" take on the "Indomitable Lions" of Cameroun in a mouthwatering encounter at the top of a Group B in the Africa Nations Cup finals tomorrow.

In the second match of the evening, defending champions Egypt plan to get their campaign to retain the trophy back on course with victory over underdogs Kenya.

Revenge
A fourth minute goal by veteran striker Roger Milla gave Cameroun sweet revenge for defeat by Egypt in the final two years ago while Kenya never looked like coming back from 3-0 down against Nigeria after half an hour in the group's opening games on Monday.

Cameroun will be playing without their 21-year-old wonderboy Francois Omam Biyick of French club Laval who had to leave the field on a stretcher after

the recurrence of a nagging leg injury.

He will not be fit in time, so once again the team will have to rely on the 36-year-old Milla to lead the attack. Milla is playing his last Africa Nations Cup after announcing he would quit the game next year.

Nigeria got off to a dream start against Kenya rifling home two goals in the first 12 minutes.

Disaster then struck the Harambee Stars in the 33rd minute when a goalkeeping error presented Ndubuisi Okosieme with an easy goal to put the Eagles beyond reach.

The goal was first credited to Sam Okwaraji but it was later discovered he had swapped shirts with Okosieme.

In attack the Kenyans did enough to raise questions about

the strength of the Nigerian defence. The Cameroun attack could provide the answers.

But Kenya's new Brazilian trainer Danilo Alves told reporters after the game: "I like the look of this Nigerian side."

And he warned that his side would be no pushover despite their poor start.

Supported
"On Monday, Egypt was favourite and they lost. So in the next match I think Kenya can beat Egypt," he said.

His remarks were supported by the Nigerian trainer Paul Hamilton. "I do not share the view that Kenya is a very weak team," he said.

Kenya took Egypt to extra time in the Africa Games soccer final last year before going down 1-0.

Crampton scores victory

SUN CITY WEST, Ariz, March 16 (AP): Australian Bruce Crampton birdied the seventh hole to win top money worth \$7,000 and his second consecutive Arizona Classic Senior Skins game at Hillcrest golf course here yesterday.

Crampton's chip shot on the 416 yard par-4 seventh hole broke a four-way tie with Senior PGA golfers Doug Sanders, Gene Littler and Billy Casper.

Littler birdied the par-3 eighth hole and Sanders won the final hole to win \$1,000 each.

Playing on the back nine through strong wind gusts, the four golfers were even after the first six holes. Sanders had a chance to break the tie but missed a short putt on the sixth hole that would have given him an eagle and \$6,000.

The Skins game was played in advance of the \$225,000 Senior PGA Arizona Classic.

The 54-hole tournament will be played Friday, Saturday and Sunday on the 6,672-yard, par-72 Hillcrest golf course.

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Bomb hoax

MADRID, March 16, (Reuters): Real Madrid quit their hotel after a midnight bomb hoax on the eve of today's European Cup quarter-final second-leg tie against West German soccer champions Bayern Munich, a hotel spokesman said.

He said police ordered the evacuation of the Monte Real Hotel in an exclusive Madrid suburb after a telephoned bomb warning.

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